UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC

Distr.
GENERAL

LC/G.1804(SES.25/7)
8 March 1994

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Twenty-fifth session
Cartagena, Colombia, 20-27 April 1994

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM, 1996-1997

93-12-1622

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	Andean Development Corporation
ALIDE	Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDCC	Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
CLADES	Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation
EEC	European Economic Community
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ILPES	Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LAIA	Latin American Integration Association
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OLADE	Latin American Energy Organization
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PREALC	Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbbean
SELA	Latin American Economic System
SIECA	Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNSTAT	United Nations Statistical Division
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

The secretariat of ECLAC presents the following draft programme of work for the period 1996-1997 to the States members of the Commission for their consideration.

The programme of work has been prepared with special attention to the situation of the region's economies so far this decade, characterized by a continuing expansion of economic activity with relative price stability, some relief from the debt burden and a huge inflow of external capital, despite the continuing sluggishness and uncertainty of the international economy as reflected in the limited growth of the region's sales to the rest of the world.

The turbulence and traumatic adjustments of the 1980s are apparently being left behind as the region's economies consolidate new ways of functioning based on trade liberalization, export promotion, fiscal austerity, prudent monetary policy and reduced government regulation of markets. However, a new kind of external vulnerability has emerged and there is a risk that adjustment may become endemic.

Serious social problems also persist, aggravated by the crisis and by adjustment processes, awaiting the moment when economic recovery eventually remedies the situation of the most seriously affected social strata and growth creates the conditions for public policies that can tackle the structural causes of poverty and inequity.

If the region is to overcome poverty and inequity —and this is bound to be a long and difficult process— it must confront a multitude of challenges, the main ones being to achieve sustained economic growth, to transform production structures, to increase productivity and to ensure greater social equity, and it must do so in a way that is democratic and environmentally sustainable.

The complexity and scope of the tasks which these challenges involve for the countries of the region require that greater efforts be devoted to practical problem-solving. To this end, the secretariat of ECLAC has attempted in this programming exercise to envisage activities that will allow it to cooperate with the member countries in this common endeavour.

This draft is the last biennial programme under the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, adopted in 1990 by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

The document begins with a table entitled "Indicative distribution of human resources"; these resources are grouped by subprogrammes, giving comparative data for the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997.

Subprogramme narratives are then presented. Each begins with a brief introductory note, followed by a description of the subject areas covered by the subprogramme and a detailed outline of the activities

to be carried out and the results to be achieved. In some cases, after the description of the subject area, activities whose execution is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources are identified. This is essential for operational activities, which can be carried out only with such resources.

This programme of work differs in structure from those presented at previous sessions of the Commission, in that tasks related to regional integration and cooperation carried out by the International Trade, Finance and Transport Division have been grouped into a specific subprogramme. In view of their importance, activities related to the integration of women in development are likewise described in a separate section.

This presentation follows the new instructions issued by United Nations Headquarters, especially with respect to the classification and description of activities, such as recurrent and non-recurrent publications, technical materials, information materials and services, intergovernmental and expert meetings, operational activities (including advisory services and group training) and intermediate activities.*

Lastly, it is important to note that any ECLAC initiative involving new activities not included in the draft programme of work could have financial implications that the secretariat will have to analyse and that the implementation of any such activities will be contingent upon obtaining the necessary additional resources. Apart from this, it should be borne in mind that the only way that existing technical resources could be used for new activities would be if they were reallocated, and that this would affect implementation of the activities to which they were originally assigned. Such reallocation would also be subject to the limitation represented by the actual feasibility of shifting personnel with different specializations between different areas of the programme of work.

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* A description of the different kinds of activities is presented in the annex.

INDICATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Subprogramme	Professional work-months							
	1994-1995				1996-1997			
	RB[a]	XB[b]	Total	%	RB[a]	XB[b]	Total	%
1. Food and agriculture	72	42	114	3	72	48	120	3
2. Economic development	504	162	666	16	504	168	672	15
3. Economic and social planning	120	204	324	8	120	204	324	7
4. Industrial, scientific and technological development	144	78	222	5	144	144	288	6
5. International trade and development finance	210	72	282	7	210	72	282	6
6. Natural resources and energy	192	84	276	7	264[c]	84	348	8
7. Environment and human settlements	144	120	264	6	144	120	264	6
8. Population	144	120	264	6	144	120	264	6
9. Social development	192	48	240	6	192	48	240	5
.Unit for the integration of Women in Development	48	24	72	2	48	48	96	2
10. Statistics and economic projections	264	12	276	7	264	36	300	7
11. Transport	96	6	102	2	96	24	120	3
12. Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America	504	42	546	13	504	72	576	13
13. Subregional activities in the Caribbean	312	48	360	9	312	72	384	9
14. Regional integration and cooperation	54	24	78	2	54	24	78	2
.Joint ECLAC/CET Unit on Transnational Corporations	24	66	90	2	24	72	96	2
Total subprogrammes	3 024	1 152	4 176	100	3 096[c]	1 356	4 452	100
Percentage	72	28	100		70	30	100	

[a] Regular budget.
[b] Extrabudgetary resources.
[c] In the context of the United Nations decentralization programme, the allocation of three additional posts (two in Energy and one in Water resources) is under consideration.

SUBPROGRAMME NARRATIVES

1996-1997

SUBPROGRAMME 1: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Presentation

This subprogramme, to be carried out by the Agricultural Development Unit of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, is designed mainly to: assist countries in directing their economic and social development policies towards promoting a better balance between rural and urban areas; help governments of the region give preferential treatment to small farmers and peasants in such areas as expansion, technology transfer and incentive and investment policies; and cooperate with governments in order to increase export earnings, giving priority to agricultural exports in which countries could be competitive over time.

In the light of these objectives, the activities planned for the biennium 1994-1995 will be directed towards research and analysis in two subject areas of particular concern to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean: i) the impact of economic restructuring on agricultural industries, with emphasis on identifying the new roles of the public and private sectors; and ii) the development of the forestry sector and its linkages into international markets.

The intense economic restructuring undertaken in most countries of the region since the mid-1980s has brought about important changes in the functioning and orientation of agricultural development and in the roles and functions performed by the public and private sectors in the agricultural sector.

In this context, the purpose of the first subject area is to contribute to a discussion of the effects, both positive and negative, of adjustment policies, external openness and international participation on the various production activities and social groups in rural areas, and of possible action to support the aspects that are more conducive to an appropriate agricultural development and to correct the unsatisfactory ones. To this end, two studies will be carried out, the second of them designed specifically to analyse the demands which dynamic, competitive participation by the agricultural sector in international markets create for determining the respective roles of the public and private sectors.

The second subject area will support efforts to promote rationalization and sustainable development of the forestry sector, which has great productive potential in the region and whose participation in external markets is growing. The studies planned in this field will seek to increase knowledge of the sector and propose policies for the development and utilization of forestry resources, with special emphasis on action that will reinforce the sector's linkages with international markets.

1. Activities

Subject area 1.1: Economic restructuring and agriculture; the new roles of the public and private sectors

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse the new roles of the State and the private sector in promoting dynamic, competitive participation by the agricultural sector in the global economy.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the direct and indirect effects of adjustment policies, external openness and improved linkages with international markets on the region's agricultural industries.

ii) A study on the new roles of the State and the private sector in promoting dynamic, competitive participation by the agricultural sector in the global economy.

Subject area 1.2: Development of the forestry sector and participation in international markets

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to review the results of the study on development of forestry resources and improvement of the sector's linkages with international markets.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A study on policies for the appropriate development of the region's forestry resources and improvement of the sector's linkages with international markets.

c) Intermediate activities

Two case-studies in countries to be determined, on the potential of the forestry and its development through long-term planning, resource development policies and improvement of the sector's linkages with international markets.

A project on forestry development is planned during the biennium.

Execution of the activity mentioned under a) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out within the ECLAC system, in consultation with various of its substantive divisions according to the relevant subject area, and in close cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The study on the effects of adjustment policies, external openness and improved international linkages will be carried out in cooperation with the Economic Development Division and the International Trade, Finance and Transport Division, with the support of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, while work on the new roles of the State and the private sector will be done in close cooperation with ILPES, the Joint ECLAC/UNCTAD Unit on Transnational Corporations and the Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industrial and Technological Development Unit.

For the activities on development of the forestry industry, information and experience will be exchanged with the Natural Resources and Energy Division, the Environment and Human Settlements Division and the International Trade, Finance and Transport Division, as well as with FAO and other bodies linked to forestry development.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the subprogramme's outputs will be government authorities and officials of countries of the region in charge of formulating, executing and managing agricultural strategies and policies.

A number of public and private institutions, such as universities, academic and research centres, various technical bodies, and non-governmental organizations connected with rural and agricultural development will also use the subprogramme's outputs.

Users will be reached through the distribution of publications and through participation in intergovernmental and expert meetings.

SUBPROGRAMME 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Presentation

After the huge disequilibria and severe adjustments of the 1980s, most of the region's economies are moving towards growth patterns characterized by more open and competitive participation in the international economy, with expanding economic activity, relative price stability, relief from the debt burden and abundant inflows of external capital. The economies of Latin America and the Caribbean have consolidated new ways of functioning, based on trade liberalization, export promotion, fiscal austerity, prudent management of monetary policy and reduced government regulation of markets. However, this has also left less room for manoeuvre in economic policy. Moreover, it is clear that some of the region's economies have made more progress than others in consolidating their structural reforms and are in a better position to continue with processes of sustained growth.

However, these processes of change are in a particularly vulnerable phase and various factors could undermine the progress that has cost such efforts. Some of these factors are: the recession in the industrialized countries; the effects of protectionist pressures; the persistence or reappearance of problems of over-indebtedness; the volatility of capital flows, which in recent years have made a decisive contribution to recovery; and, lastly, sudden disturbances in the region's external markets, as a result of an uncertain international economic situation, which make it unlikely that demand will recover or that commodity prices in general will pick up.

The level of economic recovery also remains moderate, while macroeconomic stability is still weak and investment levels are still insufficient, not having recovered from the severe contraction of the previous decade. Serious social problems persist, with increasingly uneven income distribution and declining job security.

This new external vulnerability, which is affecting countries' ongoing growth efforts, makes it even more imperative to improve international linkages through dynamic exports —the counterpart of changing production patterns with social equity. It will be necessary to continue a policy of openness to international trade and to promote greater access to technology, while strengthening control over macroeconomic equilibria and maintaining efficient management of the public-sector debt. However, it will be increasingly difficult to formulate and execute policies, since the constraints mentioned above will limit the range of options. Timely, extensive and systematic information will be needed on national, regional and global trends and on structural changes, so that policy-makers can predict where changes will take place and what new problems and opportunities will arise. As in previous bienniums, analyses based on changing production structures, reform of the State and improved income distribution, in a framework of social equity directed towards the overall development of countries of the region, will continue to be made.

Activities under this subprogramme for the biennium 1996-1997 in the field of economic development —which was given top priority in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997— comprise two subject areas linked to the above-mentioned objectives, with special emphasis on the relationship between short-term processes and the goals of medium- and long-term development. The Economic Development Division will be in charge of these activities and will receive the usual support from the ECLAC subregional headquarters and national offices located in various countries of the region.

The main objective of the first subject area, Analysis of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, is to provide timely, systematic information on national and regional economic trends and to analyse structural changes, so that national authorities can have ready access to information and up-to-date studies to guide their formulation and execution of policies.

These goals will continue to be pursued through the publication of three basic annual reports: i) the Economic Panorama of Latin America, published during the third quarter of each year; ii) the Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean, published at the end of each year; and iii) the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The extraordinary demand for the first two publications shows that they are especially useful to member countries' authorities and government officials, international agencies, banks, academic researchers and private agents, because of the timeliness, scope and quality of their information. The Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, for its part, is valued by national authorities and international bodies which appreciate the objectivity of its analyses and the comprehensiveness and comparability of its data, making it particularly useful for conducting comparative analyses that help distinguish between problems specific to a given country and those of a more general nature.

The up-to-date knowledge needed to prepare these publications also helps keep the secretariat fully abreast of the regional situation and gives it insights that enable it to anticipate the issues and situations that will arise in the region.

The second subject area, analysis of development strategies, will concentrate on economic policies designed to encourage savings and investment and policies permitting a flexible response to external shocks arising from the terms of trade and financial flows. Macroeconomic and fiscal policies aimed at restoring or consolidating macroeconomic stability will also be studied and emphasis will be placed on analysing the distributive effects of changing production patterns and external and domestic adjustments.

With a view to enhancing the effectiveness of State action in Latin America and the Caribbean, operational activities will continue in the areas of fiscal policy and public sector decentralization.

This subprogramme also includes the activities of the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES), which are grouped under subject area 2.3 on information management for development. The overall purpose of these activities is to analyse different information resources and ways of maximizing their transfer, circulation and use in the areas of research, policy-making and decision-making on economic and social development.

The activities planned by CLADES for the 1996-1997 biennium will focus on information management for development in the context of new advances in the data-processing industry, and competition and cooperation between the public and private components of that industry. CLADES will also continue its activities on the systematization and dissemination of publications on economic and social development, for which it will test and/or use new technologies such as optical disks, hypertexts, multimedia and electronic mail for database utilization.

1. Activities

Subject area 2.1: Analysis of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean

Recurrent publications

a) Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995

b) Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1996

This is an annual publication in basically two parts. The first part provides an overview of recent trends in Latin America and the Caribbean and analyses changes in the region in the context of the international economy, as well as macroeconomic policy and inflation, structural problems affecting the various types of economies, trends in public finances, employment and wages, and the external sector, devoting a separate chapter to the Caribbean economies. The second part contains individual reports on most countries of the region, each comprising a systematic analysis of economic trends accompanied by a set of tables with statistics on growth, employment, foreign trade, the balance of payments, external indebtedness, prices, wages, and monetary and fiscal accounts. The survey usually includes a third part which either analyses a specific economic issue of current importance to the region or deals in greater depth with the economy of a particular country. In April of each year, a short preliminary report on economic trends in the region during the preceding year is prepared (primarily for presentation to the Economic and Social Council), which serves as a preview of the Economic Survey.

c) Economic Panorama of Latin America, 1996

d) Economic Panorama of Latin America, 1997

This report, which is published in September of each year, contains a brief but systematic analysis of the region's economic performance and current policies, as well as a set of key statistical tables on trends in economic growth, unemployment, the external sector, inflation, wages and salaries and other significant economic variables during the first half of the year in the nine or 10 largest economies of the region.

e) Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1996

f) Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1997

The Preliminary Overview is published at the end of each year and describes and assesses the region's economic performance. It presents the latest detailed information on comparative trends in the macroeconomic variables of the region as a whole and of most countries in it. The publication is presented at an annul press conference held by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC at the end of December.

Subject area 2.2: Analysis of development strategies and economic and social policies in Latin America and the Caribbean

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

i) Meeting of experts to analyse the findings of the study on policies to encourage savings, investment and increases in productive capacity.

ii) Meeting of experts to review the findings of the study on export-based development strategies and policies for responding flexibles to external shocks.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on economic policies to encourage savings, investment and increases in productive capacity and on strategies for changing production patterns with social equity in a context of environmental sustainability; special emphasis will be placed on analysing delays in the consolidation of investment processes, the insufficient level of domestic savings and the impact of the volatility of external resource flows.

ii) A study on export-based development strategies and policies for responding flexibly to external shocks arising from the terms of trade and financial flows. The analysis will focus on the growing structural vulnerability of the region's economies as a result of their increasing integration in a fluctuating, uncertain international environment. This vulnerability is reflected in huge external gaps that are becoming permanent and are being financed with capital flows motivated partly by short-term factors, and in lack of room to manoeuvre in applying economic policy.

iii) A study on macroeconomic and fiscal policies designed to restore or consolidate macroeconomic stability. This only will analyse the severe fiscal adjustments of recent years, which substantially reduced public sector disequilibria, the structural sustainability of those adjustments and the degree of flexibility of budget management.

iv) A study on the distributive effects of changing production patterns and external and domestic adjustments, focusing mainly on the question of whether the current recovery of growth will create conditions for implementing public policies that can tackle the structural causes of poverty and inequity and meet the needs of the most disadvantaged social strata.

c) Technical materials

Organization, development and maintenance of a data bank on different subject areas related to economic development.

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

i) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in connection with the identification of policy options for encouraging savings, investment and increases in productive capacity.

ii) Projects on fiscal policy, the reform of public policies and fiscal decentralization are expected to be implemented during the biennium.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 2.3: Information management for development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse experiences in information management for development, in the context of new advances in the data-processing industry.

b) Recurrent publications

Two issues of the annual Temas especiales de desarrollo will be published during the biennium.

c) Non-recurrent publications

Two studies on information for development.

d) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

- Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in the area of information management.

- Preparation and delivery, to countries of the region that request it, of development information processed by CLADES, through Compact Disk Read Only Memory (CD/ROM).

ii) Group training

Two courses or seminars on information management.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out in cooperation with the substantive units of ECLAC. Contacts will also be maintained with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and with governmental institutions in the region.

In particular, the preparation of the Economic Survey, the Economic Panorama and the Preliminary Overview will be carried out in cooperation with the subregional headquarters and national offices of the Commission and with the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division.

These three publications will in turn serve as inputs for the work of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA), especially the World Economic Survey.

Lastly, CLADES activities will be carried out in cooperation with various ECLAC divisions and in contact with other United Nations bodies and regional institutions, such as the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD).

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the subprogramme's outputs will be ministries of economic affairs and finance, economic and social planning offices, universities and other academic institutions, libraries, researchers and scholars working on economic and social development issues, international economic and financial agencies and other interested organizations.

The Economic Panorama and the Preliminary Overview are in constant use, both within and outside the region. The main users include government authorities and officials, international agencies, banks and other private sector bodies, economic research institutes and centres and, in general, institutions, decision-makers and researchers who need to have ready access to information and indicators and to analyses of such information in order to monitor economic trends in the countries of the region on a permanent basis.

The Economic Survey will also be used by universities and other academic institutions, which usually include it in their course bibliographies.

The three studies will be distributed very widely on the basis of an up-to-date list of institutions and individuals. National and international news media are important recipients, because they help increase the circulation and enhance the impact of these publications, which will also be on sale to the general public.

Finally, the outputs of CLADES activities will be used mainly by government agencies, public and private research institutes, documentation centres and libraries, researchers and scholars.

SUBPROGRAMME 3: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING

Presentation

Activities under this subprogramme are designed to meet the priorities set for the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) by member governments of the Regional Council for Planning. These priorities, which are endorsed by ECLAC, relate to the planning and coordination of economic and social policies. Accordingly, the Institute will continue to meet the demand for services in its technical and functional areas through advisory, training and applied research activities, the latter complementing the activities being carried out by other subprogrammes of the ECLAC system.

The programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 covers five subject areas. In the public-sector programming area, the focus of activities for the biennium will be State-restructuring policies and their implications for strategic management of the allocation of public resources. Particular attention will be paid to the development and application of models and methodologies for evaluating the medium-term macroeconomic and social impact of fiscal policy and to the monitoring of current reforms in the planning and oversight of budget implementation, in the framework of integrated financial management systems. As regards economic reforms, priority will be given to analysing two key aspects of the restructuring of State corporations: the definition and institutional organization of a regulatory framework for privatized utilities, and the business organization and institutional arrangements necessary for the efficient management of public corporations.

In the area of social policies and projects, emphasis will be placed on the various aspects involved in the decentralization of social services, focusing particularly on capacity for government, governability, and decentralization and local government. The first of these topics will cover the coordination of local social policy with intermediate and national decision-making. Deregulation in social policy and the different roles that private social agents are currently required to play will also be considered. Under governability, the relative weight of the different political and social forces in seeking alliances, consensus and broad agreements will be examined, together with institutional, political, administrative and legal reforms for modernizing the management of the State. Under decentralization and local government, the focus will be on two activities: the consolidation of a Latin American network of municipal training experiments which, as a cooperation mechanism, will concentrate on distance training and educational television; and exchanges of experience, in response to the new challenges of municipal government in Latin America, in such areas as business management, provision of social services, participation methods and mechanisms, and intersectoral policies.

In the area of regional planning and policies, work will continue on the preparation of various methodologies and instruments for supporting development management on the ground. Particular attention will be paid to increasing regions' participation in international trade through the export of high-tech products or products with a high added value, in a context of growing social equity and participation. Renewed attention will be paid to coordination between regions and municipalities in order to ensure that public-spending programmes are implemented more efficiently. Work will also be done on the development and dissemination of a modern concept of "virtual regions", examining in this context structural complexity, flexibility and loss of importance of geographical frictions.

In the subject area of investment projects and planning, work will continue in two complementary fields: i) microeconomic aspects of the investment project life cycle; and ii) analysis and systematization of the macroeconomic aspects of public-investment planning and management and their links with budget programming. Using an operational, functional approach, systems and methodologies will be designed that help enhance the quality of public investment and the efficiency of fiscal-resource allocation.

In each of the subject areas mentioned, training activities, which have had an important place in the Institute's work, will be carried out at the national, subregional and regional levels, and technical meetings and seminars will be held on specific issues of priority for the countries of the region. Advisory services will also continue to be provided, to countries that request them, in the subject areas on which ILPES activities are focused.

The fifth and last subject area covers activities related to cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean planning bodies. In this area, current issues of national, subregional or regional interest in the sphere of public-policy planning and coordination will be discussed at periodic meetings of the Regional Council for Planning and of its Presiding Officers. ILPES will also continue to support the promotion of reciprocal cooperation activities and exchanges of experience in the framework of the System of Cooperation and Coordination among Planning Bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean (SCCOPALC).

1. Activities

Subject area 3.1: Public-sector programming

a) Technical meetings

i) A technical seminar on strategic management of the State and public budgets.

ii) A technical seminar on economic reform experiences in the countries of the region.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on multiannual programming of budget policy.

ii) A document on experiences in establishing regulatory frameworks for the private provision of public services.

c) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, on issues related to public-sector programming.

ii) Group training

Three 6-week international or national courses on economic reforms and strategic public management, each for approximately 30 participants.

The execution of these activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 3.2: Social policies and projects

a) Technical meetings

i) Two technical seminars on capacity for government.

ii) Two technical seminars on decentralization and local government.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study, in selected countries of the region, on the determinants of capacity for government.

ii) Two documents on governability (one in each year of the biennium).

iii) Two studies on specific aspects of municipal management.

c) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, on coordination of local social policies with national decision-making; State restructuring and decision-making processes based on broad social consensus; and decentralization and local government.

ii) Group training

Two national and international courses on municipal management.

The execution of these activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 3.3: Regional planning and policies

a) Technical meetings

i) A technical meeting on regional development bodies.

ii) A technical seminar on management of regional development.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on regions' international competitiveness as a factor in attracting investment and technology.

ii) A document on the concept of "virtual regions" in the development of open regions.

iii) A comparative study of regional management models in selected countries of the region.

c) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, on regional planning and policies.

ii) Group training

Three 5-week international or national courses under the Integrated Laboratory on the Design of Regional Strategies (LIDER) project, each for approximately 30 participants.

The execution of these activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 3.4: Investment projects and planning

a) Technical meetings

i) A regional technical meeting on alternative approaches to the social evaluation of projects.

ii) A technical meeting on project banks and investment planning.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A handbook on methodologies for identifying, preparing and evaluating social projects, with special reference to their implementation using microcomputers.

ii) A methodological guide for analysing the macroeconomic impact of public investment.

c) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, on national systems of investment planning; methodologies for project preparation, evaluation, follow-up and monitoring; and training programmes in the relevant areas.

ii) Group training

Three regional or national courses on investment planning and project evaluation.

The execution of these activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 3.5: Cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean planning bodies

a) Intergovernmental meetings

Organization and servicing of meetings of representatives of national planning bodies: nineteenth and twentieth meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning.

b) Non-recurrent publications

Two studies on current issues in the area of economic and social planning.

The execution of these activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out in close cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean national planning bodies, with ECLAC, the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank, and with universities and research centres, private bodies and non-governmental organizations connected with the planning and coordination of public policy.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users will be government authorities and officials of the countries of the region, particularly those working in economic and social policy planning and coordination bodies at the national, regional, state and local levels and those engaged in planning, programming and management activities in other bodies and public corporations.

The subprogramme's outputs will also be used by some public and private institutions such as universities, academic centres, technical and professional associations, business and labour organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

Users will be reached through the distribution of publications, training activities, technical meetings and seminars, technical cooperation and participation in intergovernmental and expert meetings.

SUBPROGRAMME 4: INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Presentation

After a costly process of adjustment, stabilization and restructuring, it is predicted that by the mid-1990s, most countries in the region will be developing new forms of access to the international economy and resuming a course of strong economic growth. In fact, past experience suggests that one of the advantages of late development is that once the process begins, a country can grow at far higher rates than a developed economy, skipping intermediate stages of technological development and rapidly approaching the production frontier.

Although high growth rates are possible, they are not automatic; they require sustained macroeconomic balances, key prices that reflect real needs and growing participation, on favourable terms, in the international economy. Moreover, skipping certain stages of development involves acquiring technology intelligently, adaptating it to local conditions, disseminating it rapidly within the country and developing it subsequently. Doing so calls not only for a great deal of entrepreneurial effort and dynamism, but also for clear and sustained government support for technological modernization, a public asset that cannot be appropriated by any single company but must benefit the entire nation. At this stage, when the technological frontier is still a long way off, collaboration among firms, research centres and governments in the region is vitally important for acquiring, transferring, adapting and eventually improving the technology that is available internationally; this, in turn, involves strengthening the absorptive capacity of the national innovation system.

This absorptive capacity refers not only to the introduction of "hard" technologies —i.e., those incorporated into machinery and equipment— but also, and primarily, to "soft" technologies, which require little physical investment and relate mainly, in production processes, to the reorganization of working methods, quality control, "just-in-time" production techniques and the demands made of suppliers. In marketing, they relate to the constant monitoring of market trends and to clear identification of the niche or segment in which the firm has or can acquire a comparative advantage.

Furthermore, the region's chances of embarking on a process of rapid economic growth will depend on how quickly it develops a second more complex, export phase in which dynamism comes from the growing added value of output, from using the advantages of agglomeration by forming production complexes that incorporate more backward and forward linkages, and from the penetration of new, dynamic markets where earnings are higher and quality requirements are increasingly rigorous.

The overall objective of this subprogramme, which will be implemented, with the help of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), by the Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industrial and Technological Development Unit of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, is to support the region's governments in formulating policies for developing their countries' capacity to acquire, adapt and disseminate the best available technologies and practices, thereby gaining and consolidating competitive advantages based on their own growing process of innovation.

The specific activities of the subprogramme for the biennium 1996-1997 are grouped into five subject areas which, though important individually, are closely interrelated. The Unit will make an ongoing, systematic analysis of trends in industrial, scientific and technological activity in the region; support countries in designing industrial development strategies for acquiring and consolidating

international competitiveness; design and promote policies for acquiring, disseminating and effecting innovations in technology; analyse and formulate policies for strengthening sectoral linkages and linkages between large firms and small and medium-sized firms and between the production system and technological infrastructure; and provide advice and training on industrial and technological development strategies.

Lastly, efforts under this subprogramme will be multiplied by incorporating the Unit into a regional network linking the main national research and policy centres on restructuring and competitiveness. The resulting exchanges of experience will not only keep ECLAC abreast of progress in this area in the region, but will also allow it to focus on conducting comparative and overall studies. At the same time, it will enhance the capacity of governments and of the various centres in the network to draw on the experience of the rest of the region in designing industrial and technological development strategies and policies.

1. Activities

Subject area 4.1: Analysis of industrial, scientific and technological trends in Latin America and the Caribbean

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse trends in industrialization, technological progress and international competitiveness in Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A study on industrialization patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to countries that request them, on industrial, scientific and technological development.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 4.2: Industrial policy strategies for consolidating international competitiveness

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse the factors that account for the successful development of new, non-traditional exports and to study policy proposals for accelerating that process.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) Three studies in countries to be determined, on the experiences of firms that have successfully developed non-traditional exports, contrasting them with experiences that did not achieve that objective.

ii) A comparative analysis of the most widely replicable aspects of the studies on firms' successful experiences in developing non-traditional exports.

iii) A study on criteria for the design of strategies and policies to consolidate international competitiveness, based on an analysis of the factors that account for the success of certain experiences in developing non-traditional exports. Special emphasis will be placed on aspects related to scales of production, technology transfer and prior development aimed at the domestic market.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to countries that request them, on industrial policy strategies aimed at consolidating international competitiveness.

d) Intermediate activities

Formulation of a regional project on industrial policy strategies for consolidating international competitiveness.

The execution of the activity described in b) i), like that of operational activities, will be partially subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 4.3: Policies for acquiring, disseminating and effecting innovations in technology

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to examine and evaluate progress in the application of policies for acquiring, disseminating and effecting innovations in technology in the countries of the region.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the acquisition and transfer of technology from abroad, with emphasis on the need to accelerate the learning process and reduce the costs of technology transfer.

ii) A study on the design of policies aimed at rapidly disseminating better organizational and production technologies and practices within the region.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, on the design of policies for acquiring, disseminating and effecting innovations in technology.

d) Intermediate activity

Formulation of a regional project a med at promoting policies for acquiring, disseminating and effecting innovations in technology.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 4.4: Strengthening of sectoral linkages and linkages between large firms and small and medium-sized firms and between technological infrastructure and the production system

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study of sectoral linkage policies that envisage wider dissemination of technology or strengthen links with foreign markets through better product design and stricter quality standards.

ii) A study on policies to support linkages between technological infrastructure and the production system.

iii) A study on strengthening the linkages between large firms and small and medium-sized firms in countries of the region.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to countries that request them, on the aforementioned topics.

The execution of operational activities and of the activity described in a) iii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 4.5: Training in industrial and technological development strategies

a) Recurrent publications

Biannual report, entitled Industrialización y desarrollo tecnológico, which will emphasize analysis of the processes of technological innovation and international competitiveness.

b) Non-recurrent publications

Two annual reports containing summaries of the main studies conducted by researchers in the region on industrial restructuring and competitiveness.

c) Operational activities

Group training

Provision of training services on industrial and technological development, in the form of specialized courses for government professionals and technicians or collaboration with universities, to countries of the region that request them.

d) Intermediate activity

Strengthening of a network of research centres in the region, in the area of industrial restructuring and competitiveness.

The execution of operational activities and of the activity described in b) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out in close cooperation with the ECLAC system, especially the divisions most directly concerned with the issue of changing production patterns, namely: Economic Development; International Trade, Finance and Transport; Social Development; Natural Resources and Energy; Environment and Human Settlements; and Statistics and Economic Projections.

Constant contact will be maintained with international agencies and academic institutions, both within and outside the region, particularly the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the regional economic commissions of the United Nations.

Relations will also be strengthened and consolidated with the direct agents of the industrialization process in the countries of the region, such as government bodies, business, labour, technical and professional associations and academic centres. In particular, activities under this subprogramme are expected to provide a channel for the provision of services to the network of national research centres on industrial restructuring and competitiveness.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the subprogramme's outputs will be government authorities and officials responsible for formulating and executing industrial and technological development strategies, policies and programmes in the countries of the region.

International, regional and subregional bodies will also use the subprogramme's outputs, as will other public and private institutions, such as universities, academic and research centres, technical and professional associations and business and labour organizations, concerned with the issue.

Users will be reached through the distribution of documents and publications, technical cooperation, training activities and participation in intergovernmental and expert meetings.

SUBPROGRAMME 5: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

Presentation

The economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean is directly and closely linked to the evolution and prospects of the region's international trade and the external financing it is able to obtain.

The overall objectives of this subprogramme are to assist the member countries in designing policies and actions to expand trade flows and obtain effective access to extraregional markets; to provide them with analytical information and policy recommendations on options for diversifying trade and financial relations; to support them in formulating concerted regional positions in the different multilateral negotiating forums in which they participate; and, in the field of development financing, to contribute to the preparation and design of policies for strengthening the capacity to generate domestic saving and efficiently channel it to investment, and of proposals for improving the conditions and terms of the external debt.

The programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 comprises three clusters of subject areas. The first of these, consisting of subject areas 5.1 to 5.3, deals with trends in the region's external sector and the analysis of trade policy options. In order to provide the countries of the region with up-to-date information and analyses for timely decision-making, an annual report will be prepared on trends in the international economic relations of Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasizing the recent behaviour of trade and financial flows and the most important developments in bilateral and multilateral trade policy with economies outside the region and in intraregional integration policy. The report will also selectively analyse those aspects of the global economic situation that are clearly important for the performance of the Latin American economy.

This first cluster of subject areas also includes the implementation of various activities in the field of commercial and foreign trade policies, focusing on various issues of particular interest to the region. One study will examine the successes and limitations of trade policy reforms in the countries of the region, with a view to identifying the best options for promoting changing production patterns with social equity. Another will focus on the detailed analysis of specific ways of promoting exports, in the light of the new requirements resulting from the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). A third study will analyse key aspects of the relationship between trends in the regions foreign trade and changing production patterns with social equity.

The second cluster, consisting of subject areas 5.4 and 5.5, comprises the preparation of a number of systematic studies of the economic relations of Latin America and the Caribbean with the main countries in the major trading blocs: the United States and Canada, the European Economic Community (ECC) and neighbouring economies, and Japan and the countries of East and South-East Asia. The studies will investigate the nature of the problems inherent in these relations, analyse recent economic events linked with these trading blocs and formulate proposals which could be the subject of bilateral or multilateral negotiations. The studies will focus not only on the individual countries or groups of developed market-economy countries with which there have traditionally been greater trade and financial flows, but also on the developing countries with which there is greater potential for expanding economic relations, for instance, those of East and South-East Asia.

Lastly, the third cluster, comprising subject areas 5.6 to 5.8, covers activities in three substantive areas of development financing, namely: policies and instruments to strengthen savings and capital formation; monetary and financial policies for development; and financial aspects of social policies. Specific issues related to topics analysed in previous bienniums will be dealt with in each of these areas. The first area will focus on analysing policies for attracting and regulating foreign capital in the form of portfolio investments; the second will review experiences in applying stabilization and adjustment policies to achieve single-digit inflation; and the third will study the financial aspects of providing social services, focusing on one specific area of social policy.

It should also be mentioned that, as in previous bienniums, technical cooperation will continue to be provided, to countries that request it in the fields indicated in the various subject areas.

1. Activities

Subject area 5.1: Evolution and prospects of the external sector of Latin America and the Caribbean

Non-recurrent publications

Two annual reports on the evolution of the external sector of Latin America and the Caribbean, including an evaluation of predicted trends.

Subject area 5.2: Latin American and Caribbean trade policies: analysis and options

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to examine the region's trade policies and identify and analyse suggestions for action.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A document on the successes and limitations of trade policy reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ii) A study on new ways of promoting exports in the countries of the region.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in the area of trade policy.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 5.3: Specific issues related to foreign trade in Latin America and the Caribbean

a) Non-recurrent publications

A study on the relationship between trends in the region's foreign trade and changing production patterns with social equity.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in the area of foreign trade.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 5.4: Economic relations with developed market-economy countries

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) Two documents updating and expanding on specific aspects of international economic relations and cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and the developed market-economy countries: the United States, ECC member countries, or Japan.

ii) Two annual studies on the United States economy (English only).

iii) Two annual studies on the Canadian economy (English only).

b) Information materials and services

i) CEPAL News (24 issues), a monthly publication, in English only, prepared by the ECLAC office in Washington, D.C. (1996-1997).

ii) Dissemination of ECLAC documents through the ECLAC office in Washington, D.C. (1996-1997).

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in the area of economic cooperation with developed market-economy countries.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 5.5: Economic relations with developing countries

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on economic and financial cooperation with the countries of East and South-East Asia.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A document analysing the economic relations of Latin America and the Caribbean with the developing countries of Asia and proposing courses of action at the national, bilateral and multilateral level to expand those relations.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in the area of economic cooperation with the Asian countries.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 5.6: Savings and capital formation

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on policies for attracting and regulating foreign capital flows in the form of portfolio investments.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A study on policies for attracting and regulating foreign capital flows in the form of portfolio investments.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in connection with policies for attracting and regulating foreign capital flows in the form of portfolio investments.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 5.7: Monetary and financial policies for development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to review experiences in applying stabilization and adjustment policies to achieve single-digit inflation in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A document on stabilization and adjustment policies for achieving single-digit inflation.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in the area of stabilization and adjustment policies.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 5.8: Financial aspects of social policies

a) Non-recurrent publications

A study on the financial aspects of social policies, focusing on one specific area to be determined.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in connection with financial aspects of social policies.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out primarily by means of exchanges of information and technical consultations with the subregional headquarters and offices of ECLAC in a number of countries. For most of these activities, similar relations will also be maintained with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Depending on the subject area and the nature of the corresponding activities, periodic consultations will also be held with other international, regional and subregional bodies. Thus, for the implementation of activities related to export promotion, periodic consultations will be held with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Latin American Bank for Exports (BLADEX), the Andean Development Corporation (ADC), the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI).

In the area of economic relations with developed market-economy countries, periodic consultations will be held with the persons in charge of the corresponding UNCTAD and SELA activities and with the groups of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULACs) in New York, Geneva and Brussels.

In the area of commercial and financial links with Asian developing countries, periodic consultations will be held with the corresponding United Nations regional economic commission, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Lastly activities related to financial policy will be implemented mainly within the framework of the joint ECLAC/UNDP regional project in this field, in contact with the subregional headquarters and offices of ECLAC in a number of countries and with the relevant international agencies.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of this subprogramme's outputs will be government authorities and officials of the countries of the region, particularly those involved in the design, execution and management of strategies and policies in the areas of foreign trade, international trade negotiations and development financing, and some private-sector institutions, such as producers' and exporters' associations, chambers of commerce and other development bodies concerned with the issues addressed by this subprogramme. Other users will include regional and subregional agencies, academic institutions, research centres and other bodies concerned with economic cooperation.

Users will be reached through the distribution of documents and publications, the provision of information materials and services, technical cooperation, periodic consultations and contacts, and participation in intergovernmental and expert meetings.

SUBPROGRAMME 6: NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Presentation

Natural resources and energy are essential to the process of changing production patterns in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and therefore play a strategic role by virtue both of their economic value and of their usefulness for human development. In view of this fact and of the urgent need to conserve resources and avoid damaging the environment, the countries of the region must learn more about their available resource potential and improve their resource management practices.

It is hoped that, by the mid-1990s, the natural resource management policies undertaken by the countries of the region will be consistent with the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and with the relevant aspects of Agenda 21, not only in the areas directly considered in this subprogramme but also in other related and relevant areas, such as biodiversity, biotechnology, the atmosphere, health, and hazardous products and wastes.

The activities to be carried out under this subprogramme during the biennium 1996-1997 will cover three subject areas: the management, sustainable use and economics of natural resources and energy.

In the first subject area, a number of studies will be conducted on the management of natural resources and energy. Particular attention will be paid to analysing policies for integrated water resources management, based on case-studies in various countries of the region. A comparative study will also be made of amendments to mining legislation, and research will be conducted on changes in energy policy and strategies for protecting biodiversity.

In the second subject area, several studies will be made of natural resource and energy use. An analysis will be made of the effects of environmental legislation on mining investments, progress in implementing the recommendations of Agenda 21 concerning the protection and quality of water resources, the operation of existing cooperation mechanisms in relation to straddling stocks and highly migratory species and efficiency of energy consumption in industry and mining.

Lastly, in the third subject area, attention will focus on various aspects of the economics of natural resources. Studies will be made of specific issues such as the use of prices in water resources management, the economic and financial participation of the countries of the region in the administration of the international seabed area, and the design of methodologies for assessing the economic value of natural resources.

In addition to these specific activities, backstopping will be provided to countries with a view to improving the region's bargaining position in international forums concerned with the development of the region's natural resources, and to identifying and promoting horizontal cooperation activities among the relevant organizations.

Work will also continue on the periodic evaluation and statistical analysis of selected natural resources, particularly water, minerals and energy sources. These activities are of an ongoing nature and lend both continuity and support to the work being done by the Natural Resources and Energy Division, which is in charge of the execution of this subprogramme.

It should be noted that the Natural Resources and Energy Division coordinated the region's focal points for monitoring the implementation of relevant aspects of Agenda 21 and of the recommendations of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Commission on Sustainable Development, and support for the Latin American Mining Organization (OLAMI), the Network for Cooperation in Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE). These functions, and others related to the environmentally sustainable management of natural resources, will continue to figure among subprogramme activities.

1. Activities

Subject area 6.1: Natural resource and energy management for development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

i) Meeting of experts on integrated water management of the national hydrographic basins of countries of the region.

ii) Meeting of experts to review the findings of the comparative study on amendments to the mining legislation of the producer countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A document analysing policies for the integrated water management of hydrographic basins in certain countries of the region.

ii) A comparative study of amendments to the mining legislation of the main producer countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

iii) A study on energy policy reforms in selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

iv) A study on strategies for protecting biodiversity in the region.

c) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, with a view to improving their capacity for integrated natural resources management.

ii) Group training

Organization of two annual 5-day courses and preparation of teaching materials on natural resources management procedures for sustainable development.

d) Intermediate activities

i) Four case-studies, in countries to be determined, on integrated water management policies for hydrographic basins.

ii) Support for the activities of the Network for Cooperation in Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

iii) Support for subregional or regional initiatives concerning specific aspects of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, on protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources.

iv) Support in the area of mining development for the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, OLAMI and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

v) Support in the area of energy development for the Latin American State Petroleum Enterprises Mutual Aid Association (ARPEL) and OLADE.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 6.2: Utilization of natural resources and energy

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to review the findings of the study on the efficiency of energy consumption in industry and mining.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A document on the progress made by the countries of the region in implementing the various recommendations of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, including those on the protection of the quality of water resources and the application of integrated approaches to their development, management and use.

ii) A study analysing the effects of environmental legislation on mining investments.

iii) A document on the functioning of the cooperation mechanisms adopted by the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks as regards the region's coastal countries.

iv) A study on the efficiency of energy consumption in industry and mining.

c) Intermediate activities

Support for the work of international agencies, public bodies and non-governmental organizations in implementing the agreements contained in Agenda 21.

The execution of the activity mentioned in a) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 6.3: Economics of natural resources

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the use of prices in water resources management.

ii) A study on the alternatives for economic and financial participation by the countries of the region in the administration of the international seabed area, in accordance with the relevant negotiations related to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

iii) A study on methodologies for assessing the economic value of natural resources.

The execution of the activity mentioned in a) iii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out in consultation with various programmes and units of the United Nations system and with other international, regional and subregional bodies, according to subject area.

In the work on mining resources, periodic consultations will be held with the Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industrial and Technological Development Unit —within the ECLAC system— and with OLAMI, LAIA, the Board of the Cartagena Agreement and SELA.

The activities related to water resources will be executed in consultation with the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), and other international agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank.

In the area of ocean resources, there will be a permanent system of consultation with the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre, the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO/ROSTLAC), the Association for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), FAO, the presidency of the

Latin American Group in the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and various institutionalized fisheries forums and intergovernmental bodies such as the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific and other bodies belonging to different subregions.

For the execution of the activities related to energy, periodic consultations will be held with OLADE, the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the subprogramme's outputs will be countries' governmental and private bodies and agencies in charge of various activities related to the planning, coordination, management, design, formulation and execution of projects in specific areas related to natural resources and energy.

Other users will include international, regional and subregional bodies working in related fields.

The publications provided for in this subprogramme could be used as reference documents in intergovernmental, inter-agency and inter-company negotiations and for the formulation of development plans and policies in the above-mentioned fields. They will also serve as information documents for governments, business associations and chambers, academic institutions and research and training centres in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Users will be reached through the distribution of publications, participation in governmental and expert meetings and the provision of technical cooperation services.

SUBPROGRAMME 7: ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Presentation

In recent years, regional and international public opinion has manifested a growing concern about the situation of the environment and human settlements. The Latin American and Caribbean countries' active participation in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the signing of the Rio Declaration by all of their Governments and the launching of the activities recommended in Agenda 21 reveal a recognition of the close relationship between development and the environment, while at the same time reaffirming the region's commitment to meeting the challenges of seeking sustainable, equitable development.

This recognition of the link between environment and development refers both to the importance of the natural resource base and environmental services for ensuring sustainable development and changing production patterns and to the demands that urban population growth makes on the man-made environment and the latter's shortcomings in providing housing of a standard compatible with the idea of sustainable development.

In this context, the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, which comprises six closely interrelated subject areas, is designed primarily to support the design of programmes and policies in the areas mentioned and to enhance the countries' capacity to manage instruments with which they can meet their established goals.

The first subject area will deal with the implementation of integrated systems of environmental information for human settlements, specifically in order to improve decision-making processes aimed at strengthening environmentally sound urban management at the national and local levels. The activities planned comprise the design of operational methodologies for generating environmental information on urban areas that is compatible with the information existing in the economic and social fields; the convening of a meeting of experts to study substantive aspects of environmental information systems in the countries of the region and to evaluate the possibility of integrating them into a regional network; and the provision to countries of technical cooperation services in this area.

The activities to be carried out in the second subject area will focus specifically on monitoring the region's implementation of Agenda 21. Special emphasis will be placed on analysing the economic, institutional and legal obstacles to the implementation of the priority actions recommended in Agenda 21 and on studying the efficiency of the financial mechanisms established to support those actions.

The third subject area will consist of activities aimed at continuing and intensifying analyses and studies of the relationship between changing production patterns and sustainable development. In particular, two topics that are likely to have a significant influence on the region's development will be addressed: the repercussions of environmental policies on international trade, and the growing economic importance of conserving biodiversity. With regard to the first topic, the potential effects of ecological restrictions on patterns of international trade will be analysed, with special reference to the application of principles of eco-quality to the production, marketing and export of the region's products and to the possible use of environmental issues to erect unjustified trade barriers. With regard to biodiversity, special emphasis will be placed on analysing the economic effects of negotiations related to biodiversity regulations, management and conservation, a topic that will be examined at a meeting of experts;

consideration will also be given to the fact that although the region's many biomes rich in biological diversity can have high added value in the international market, the countries possessing such biomes often do not reap their economic benefits.

The fourth subject area will focus on activities aimed specifically at analysing the progress made by the countries of the region in the areas of environmentally sustainable agriculture and sound waste control and management, with special emphasis on the issue of hazardous wastes. Two studies and a meeting of experts on these topics are planned, and technical cooperation services in this area will be provided to the member States.

The fifth subject area concerns the management of human settlements. The housing and urban infrastructure construction sector will be analysed further, with special emphasis on its links to the process of changing production patterns with social equity and on the formulation of proposals for its modernization and standardization. Moreover, action will be taken to put into practice the measures agreed upon at the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, for which ECLAC acts as technical secretariat. As such, ECLAC will continue to support the activities of this body during the biennium, mainly by preparing studies and documents; consolidating a technical cooperation network among the countries of the region, to function as a forum for ongoing consultation and exchanges of knowledge and technical instruments; and providing technical cooperation to the member States for implementing the recommendations of the ministerial meetings. A regional technical cooperation project will also be executed in support of these activities.

Lastly, the sixth subject area comprises activities designed to strengthen the management capacity of local governments through the formulation of instruments and methodologies for environmentally sustainable urban administration. In this field, special attention will be given to the application of innovative mechanisms for more efficient allocation and use of available resources at the local level in order to broaden the coverage of urban infrastructure, especially as regards basic sanitation, health and the environment.

1. Activities

Subject area 7.1: Integrated environmental information systems for urban areas

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to study the compatibility among countries' existing environmental information systems and to evaluate the possibility of setting up regional networks.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A study on methodologies for generating environmental data for urban areas that are compatible with established information systems in the economic and social fields.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

i) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, on systems and methods for evaluating the economic and social costs of environmentally unsound urban management.

ii) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, for the implementation and operation of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing systems.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 7.2: Monitoring of the implementation of Agenda 21 in the region

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse the operation and efficiency of the economic and financial mechanisms to be used to implement Agenda 21 in the countries of the region.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A study on the economic, institutional and legal obstacles to the implementation of the priority actions for the region recommended in Agenda 21.

c) Intermediate activities

Preparation of yearly regional reports analysing the implementation of the main agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 47/191).

The execution of the activity described in a) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 7.3: The relationship between changing production patterns and sustainable development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to examine the economic effects of negotiations concerning biodiversity regulations, management and conservation in the countries of the region.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study of the effects of restrictions based on environmental issues on the region's patterns of international trade.

ii) A document on the regional repercussions of bilateral or multilateral free trade agreements, taking into account the evolution of international and regional environmental policies.

iii) A study on the evolution of the process of technology transfer for sustainable development.

Subject area 7.4: Environmentally sustainable development management in the agricultural and industrial sectors; policies for household and industrial waste management and control

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse the progress made in environmentally sound waste management in the countries of the region, with special emphasis on the issue of hazardous wastes.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the progress made in environmentally sound waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ii) A study on the progress made in developing environmentally sustainable agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

i) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, on waste management and control.

ii) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, on sustainable agricultural development.

The execution of all the activities in this subject area will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 7.5: Management of human settlements

a) Provision of documentation services for intergovernmental meetings

Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, held every two years.

b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse and evaluate the progress made in modernizing and standardizing construction systems for housing and urban infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean.

c) Non-recurrent publications

A study on changing production patterns in the housing and urban infrastructure construction sector in the countries of the region, and proposals for its modernization.

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

i) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, on the management of human settlements, with special reference to the modernization and standardization of construction systems for housing and urban infrastructure.

ii) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, for implementing the recommendations of the ministerial meetings.

e) Intermediate activities

Support for activities and preparation of documents for the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 7.6: Urban management and local governments

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to evaluate progress in the area of urban management in medium-sized cities of Latin America.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A study on strengthening the urban management capacity of local governments, in countries of the region to be determined.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, in the areas of urban management.

The execution of all the activities in this subject area will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out in close cooperation with other divisions and entities of the ECLAC system, especially the Natural Resources and Energy Division and the Division of Production, Productivity and Management for work related to sustainable development and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division for the implementation of integrated economic-environmental information systems.

According to their nature and subject area, activities will also be carried out in cooperation with programmes and units of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT).

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs generated by these activities will be government authorities and officials of the countries of the region, especially those connected with national development planning, economic agencies and institutions dealing with problems of the environment and human settlements and municipal and local entities responsible for managing, formulating and implementing policies, programmes and projects on urban environmental management.

Other important users of the subprogramme's outputs will be public and private institutions such as universities and academic and applied research centres, technical, professional and business associations connected with development, environmental protection and housing construction and finance, and related non-governmental organizations.

Users will be reached through the distribution of documents and publications, technical cooperation, training activities and participation in intergovernmental and expert meetings.

SUBPROGRAMME 8: POPULATION

Presentation

For the countries of the region, overcoming poverty is one of the main challenges for effectively achieving social equity. Poverty is expected to decline in the biennium 1996-1997, since most of the costs of economic restructuring in the region will have already been absorbed.

The search for social equity will take place under more favourable demographic conditions than in the past. Lower fertility rates will relieve pressure on job creation and the demand for social services, thereby freeing resources for improving the quality of education and maternal and child health and nutrition. The latter variables are intimately involved in the reproduction of poverty and are the two most important components of investment in human capital.

Even though fertility has declined noticeably, the decline has not been uniform either within or between countries. The less developed countries still have high fertility rates and therefore lag far behind in the area of demographic equity. The decline has also been uneven among social groups. Among the poorest strata, peasants, landless rural workers and ethnic minorities, women still have a greater average number of children, thereby continuing the intergenerational reproduction of poverty.

It is hoped that by the end of 1995, most countries of the region will have completed the initial processing of data from their 1990 population and housing censuses. The decentralization of planning and decision-making will lead to greater democratization in the area of data processing. The use of census databases with spatial references through the programme designed by the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) for the retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM-Plus), in conjunction with some kind of geographical data system, will become routine among regional, provincial and municipal authorities and will contribute to wider dissemination and use of population census data than in the past.

All of this will undoubtedly present huge challenges for CELADE during the biennium, since there will be a greater need for up-to-date knowledge of demographic trends and their determinants and consequences, especially for use in public policies, regional and local planning and the design of activities targeting priority population groups. Training of national personnel will have to be strengthened in the areas of population studies and the incorporation of demographic factors into development programmes and policies, with special emphasis on the adoption of technological innovations in population data and analysis and their use in local decision-making.

With a view to meeting these requirements, during the biennium 1996-1997 CELADE, the institution in charge of this subprogramme within the ECLAC system, will concentrate its efforts on increasing countries self-sufficiency with respect to demographic studies and analyses, promoting their interdependence in this field and providing them with more efficient services at the regional level. The population subprogramme will cover eight subject areas and involve the provision of technical cooperation, applied research, training, information and technology transfer, taking a multidisciplinary approach to population and development.

The activities provided for in the programme of work will be aimed mainly to support countries in such areas as up-to-date knowledge of demographic trends and their determinants and consequences; incorporation of population variables into social policies and programmes and into socio-economic investment projects; analysis and design of policies and actions on trends in the growth and spatial distribution of population and of specific priority groups; strengthening of the capacity of national institutions to use multidisciplinary population information and facilitate data transmission and exchanges and access to the corresponding technology; and training of national personnel in the areas of population studies and the incorporation of demographic factors into development programmes and policies.

1. Activities

Subject area 8.1: Analysis of the demographic situation and demographic inputs for development plans and programmes

a) Recurrent publications

Four issues of the twice-yearly publication Boletín Demográfico.

b) Non-recurrent publications

Four publications on population estimates and projections, in coordination with institutions of countries to be determined.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

i) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, with respect to demographic analyses for use in development plans and programmes.

ii) Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, for the preparation of population estimates and projections for the country as a whole or for specific sectors, using the latest available information.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 8.2: Interrelationship between population and health

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the monitoring of trends in infant mortality.

ii) A study on demographic inputs for health programming activities.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, for conducting population and health studies.

The execution of operational activities and of the activity described in a) ii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 8.3: Instrumental programmes for using population knowledge and techniques in economic and social development policies and programmes

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the consequences of demographic trends for urban policies, with special reference to the major cities of Latin America.

ii) A study on experiences in incorporating demographic variables into socio-economic investment projects.

b) Technical materials

Organization of a data bank on demographic trends and urban policies in Latin America.

c) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, for the design, follow-up and evaluation of programmes designed to bring about changes in socio-demographic trends.

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in the incorporation of demographic variables into social policies and programmes.

ii) Group training

In-service training of government officials in the use of methodologies that help enhance the use of data sources to facilitate the design and implementation of population policies.

d) Intermediate activities

i) Four case-studies on the consequences of demographic trends for urban policies, in countries of the region to be determined.

ii) Preparation of teaching materials on the operational incorporation of demographic variables into sectoral policies and programmes for education and housing, and on experiences in incorporating such variables into socio-economic investment projects.

The execution of all the activities in this subject area will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 8.4: Policies and actions on trends in the growth and spatial distribution of population and of priority groups

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on trends in the spatial distribution of population and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ii) A study on trends in teenage pregnancy and its repercussions for the situation of women, in selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

iii) A study on the situation and needs of the elderly in selected countries of the region.

b) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, for the design, follow-up and evaluation of programmes targeting vulnerable population groups, especially adolescents and the elderly.

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, for conducting applied research on internal and international migration, using the latest available information.

ii) Group training

In-service training of government officials in the use of methodologies that help enhance the use of data sources on spatial distribution of the population, urbanization and internal and international migration.

c) Intermediate activities

Preparation of teaching notes on the topics of the studies mentioned in a).

The execution of operational activities and of the activities described in a) ii) and a) iii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 8.5: Use of multidisciplinary information on population and associated technology, taking into account spatial distribution, for changing production patterns with social equity at the national and local levels

a) Recurrent publications

Two issues of REDATAM Informa (in Spanish only).

b) Non-recurrent publications

A document on computer software applications in the population field which are of relevance for analysing changing production patterns with social equity at the local and national level, and the corresponding technology transfer.

c) Technical materials

Development of software applications that facilitate the use of multidisciplinary information on population, with special reference to spatial distribution, through the combined use of the system for the retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer and Geographic Information Systems (REDATAM-Plus/GIS).

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, in the use of REDATAM-Plus/GIS software applications to incorporate demographic data into national, regional and local planning or to support the extended use of census and other demographic data in small areas.

The execution of activities in this subject area, with the exception of the activity described in a), will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 8.6: Exchanges of demographic information among countries of the region through the use of low-cost communications and mass distribution technologies

a) Recurrent publications

Annual publication of the CELADE/Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL) and Latin American and Caribbean Population Information Network (IPALCA) national population databases on Compact Disks/Read Only Memory (CD/ROM), to replace the publication DOCPAL: Latin American population abstracts.

b) Technical materials

Regular updating of the CELADE/DOCPAL population database.

c) Operational activities

Group training

Organization of a workshop for training national instructors in order to increase exchanges of information and the use of population databases at the national level.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 8.7: Training of human resources in population and development

Operational activities

Group training

a) Postgraduate courses in population and development, lasting nine months, under the Global Programme of Training in Population and Development, for approximately 25 professionals per course (one course in each year of the biennium).

b) National, subregional or regional courses on demographic analysis for sectoral or regional development, lasting two to four months, for approximately 25 professionals per course (two courses are planned during the biennium).

c) Cooperation with universities and non-governmental organizations of countries of the region that request it for the programming and incorporation of courses on population studies, including the preparation of training materials.

The execution of activities in this subject area, all of which are operational activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 8.8: Group training on selected topics

Operational activities

Group training

Three workshops or seminars, lasting one to three weeks, to analyse the linkages between demographic factors and specific sectoral and spatial development issues, for government authorities and officials and institutional leaders involved in the decision-making process.

The execution of activities in this subject area, all of which are operational activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out in coordination with other units of ECLAC, especially the Economic Development Division, the Social Development Division and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, ECLAC subregional headquarters and national offices and ILPES. In some subject areas, specific activities will be coordinated with other substantive divisions of ECLAC, particularly the Environment and Human Settlements Division.

CELADE will also work jointly with other programmes and units of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Division, the United Nations Statistical Division and the United Nations Population Information Network (POPIN), and with specialized agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the subprogramme's outputs will be national, regional and local offices involved in economic and social development, ministries of health, education and housing, national statistical offices and other public and private agencies and bodies in charge of the formulation, execution and management of plans, policies and projects dealing with various aspects of population.

The subprogramme's outputs will also be disseminated to universities, academic and research centres and other population-related institutions.

Users will be reached through the distribution of publications and reports, contact with the relevant institutions through technical cooperation missions, the organization of courses, workshops and meetings, and in-service training of national officials.

SUBPROGRAMME 9: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Presentation

Despite the progress made in recent years, a large percentage of the region's population continues to live in poverty. The poor have changed: they are increasingly heterogeneous and more predominant in urban areas than in the past. Rural poverty, however, remains more acute.

The economic recovery of many countries in the region that have carried out structural adjustment programmes and have managed to adapt to changes in the international economy is creating especially favourable conditions for making great strides in overcoming poverty, through job creation and the increase in State tax revenues resulting from greater economic activity.

Overcoming poverty, however, requires a radical change in all the social policies currently applied by most countries of the region. These policies basically suffer from three defects: inefficiency, ineffectiveness, and inequity. To combat inefficiency, more effort must be made to improve the way in which public resources available for social programmes are used, rather than to increase them. To combat ineffectiveness it is necessary to find out whether social programmes are actually reaching their target population and, if so, whether they are doing what they set out to do. Lastly, to correct inequity, social policies must serve the most needy rather than the first in line.

These limitations will be overcome only by redesigning public policies and recognizing that Governments on their own cannot make their social policies more efficient, effective and equitable. Opportunities must therefore be created for civil society to participate, in different ways, in both financing and executing social programmes, through various social actors such as non-governmental organizations, community organizations, local authorities and even private enterprise.

In this context, the main subject areas of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 are the preparation of statistical data and social indicators for analysing the social situation and, basically, for designing and executing anti-poverty programmes; the preparation of methodologies for assessing the impact of social programmes; and the analysis of experiences in improving the management of public and private social programmes. It also includes research and analysis aimed at facilitating efforts to combat drug abuse.

Activities in the first subject area will be aimed at preparing statistical data and generating social indicators as a basis for the actual analyses needed to produce a survey of the social situation, emphasizing the identification of situations of poverty. This will enable social policy design to be adapted more closely to the specific characteristics of the different target groups in countries of the region. These activities will culminate in the publication of the Panorama social de América Latina.

Efforts in the second subject area will be devoted to analysing social policies, with special reference to the preparation of methodologies for improving their design and execution. Some of the studies planned in this area will focus on analysing institutional and organizational aspects of the social policies applied in the countries of the region and will be designed to identify the differences between them and the innovations made. Two other studies will analyse methodologies for assessing cost-effectiveness in specific areas; one will deal with education, while the other will make a comparative analysis of how these methodologies have been applied to various nutrition projects implemented in countries of the

region, in order to make recommendations for the design of similar programmes. The overall purpose of these activities is to facilitate the evaluation of social programmes and projects carried out by Governments, especially through social investment funds and programmes financed by international funding agencies.

Several studies in the third subject area will analyse experiences in managing social policies, programmes and projects. These studies will compare methods of programme and project management at the local level, identify successful experience in managing social policies and examine problems related to social services management in the countries of the region. A manual will also be prepared on social services management and two expert meetings will be held one to examine advances in social programme management methodologies and the other to analyse State reform designed to improve social services management.

Lastly, the fourth subject area comprises activities planned in the area of efforts to combat drug abuse. These activities will be directed mainly towards analysing the progress made in various national programmes for preventing drug production, transport, trafficking and use, and methods and procedures for preventing drug abuse. An expert meeting is also planned to review changes in the situation in the region in this regard.

1. Activities

Subject area 9.1: Analysis of social trends in the region, with emphasis on identifying situations of poverty

a) Non-recurrent publications

Panorama social de América Latina, two issues (one in each year of the biennium).

The Panorama social de América Latina is produced jointly by the Social Development Division and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, with the collaboration of the Economic Development Division. It analyses key topics such as employment, income distribution, poverty and social spending, as well as advances and reverses in achieving equality among socio-economic strata, by gender and geographical location (rural and urban), as regards living conditions and opportunities for social mobility. It also includes a broad analysis of the social agenda, i.e., of all the major social issues debated publicly, and especially politically, in the various countries of the region. This helps highlight the differences that exist with respect to the main problems and how they are perceived, and is also important for selecting the Division's areas of research, so that it can better respond to Governments' demands for technical cooperation.

The 1996 and 1997 editions will expand the number of countries covered, will update information with the latest available figures and cover the most important aspects of the region's social development, basically those related to social macro-policies (education, health, social security and housing), as well as the trends observed in social stratification. With respect to basic sources of statistical information, that generated by household surveys will be updated and used on a continuing basis, and attempts will be made to incorporate other information available in the region. Each edition will deal in depth with a specific issue.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, with respect to methodologies for gathering and analysing statistical information for the preparation and updating of the survey of the social situation.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 9.2: Social policies: methodologies for improving their design and implementation

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) A comparative study of the institutional and organizational aspects of social macro-policies in a selection of countries of the region that is representative of different organizational subtypes.

ii) Two studies on institutional aspects of social policies, to be published in the Políticas sociales series.

iii) A document on methodologies for assessing cost-effectiveness in the area of education.

iv) A document comparing the application of cost-effectiveness evaluation methodologies to various nutrition projects carried out in countries of the region, making it possible to draw conclusions and make recommendations for the future design of similar programmes.

b) Operational activities

i) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to member countries that request them, for establishing suitable mechanisms for evaluating and monitoring social programmes and projects either under way or to be implemented in the future.

ii) Group training

- Organization of a regional course at ECLAC headquarters, for a selected group of government technicians and university lecturers in the area of social projects, designed to strengthen the process of training instructors.

- Organization of national training courses for government technical personnel on methodologies for formulating and evaluating social programmes and projects (four courses are planned for the biennium).

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 9.3: Analysis of experiences in managing social policies, programmes and projects

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

i) Meeting of experts to review the progress made in social programme management methodologies in the region.

ii) Meeting of experts on State reform designed to improve social services management.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A comparative study of methods of social programme and project management at the local level.

ii) A study identifying successful experiences in social policy management in selected countries of the region.

iii) Two studies on problems related to social services management in selected countries of the region, to be published in the Políticas sociales series.

iv) Preparation of a manual on social services management.

The execution of the activities described in b) iii) and b) iv) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 9.4: Activities in the area of efforts to combat drug abuse

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to review changes in the region as regards the prevention of drug production, transport, trafficking and use.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A comparative study of the progress made in various national programmes for preventing drug production, transport, trafficking and use.

ii) Two studies on methods and procedures for preventing drug abuse.

The execution of the activities described in b) ii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Within the ECLAC system and in accordance with the relevant subject areas, activities under this subprogramme will be carried out in close contact with the Economic Development Division, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) and the subregional headquarters.

Depending on its specific field, each of the activities mentioned will be carried out in permanent contact with other programmes and units of the United Nations system and other international and regional agencies, such as the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as various universities and non-governmental organizations interested in social policy issues.

Lastly, activities in the area of efforts to combat drug abuse will be implemented within the framework of the Global Programme of Action on international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and in contact with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Constant contact will also be maintained with regional, subregional and government agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean which deal with the drug problem.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be the government authorities and officials of the countries of the region responsible for designing and implementing social policies, programmes and projects in each of the subject areas.

Publications will also be distributed to universities, academic institutions and research centres dealing with social development and social policy issues, and to other agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with these issues.

The users of outputs in the area of efforts to combat drug abuse will be the authorities and officials of agencies responsible for the corresponding national programmes and other related activities in the countries of the region.

Users will be reached through the distribution of publications, participation in governmental and expert meetings and the provision of technical cooperation services.

UNIT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Presentation

The main purpose of the Commission's activities in relation to women is to strengthen, in the context of the proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, the position of women in the region in areas that are essential for their achievement of equality with men, their effective integration into economic and social development and their full participation at all levels of decision-making. Since almost all the Latin American and Caribbean countries have ratified United Nations instruments and mechanisms to promote women's self-realization, the basic task now is to ensure that these egalitarian principles are reflected in practice.

The situation of women in the region has changed significantly in recent years, especially in terms of employment, education and health. Women's growing participation in the workforce is a structural trend that will undoubtedly gather momentum, even though there remain enormous differences in the contexts in which women play their productive and reproductive roles. In the field of education, women's university enrolment rates in the region are still rising fast, with a trend towards parity between the sexes, while the distribution of women by area of study has changed very little. However, wage discrimination persists and is reflected by the fact that, in order to attain levels of remuneration equivalent to those of men, women need an average of four more years of formal education. Despite these changes, most textbooks still perpetuate images that discourage more equal participation of men and women.

One of the greatest changes in women's lives in recent decades has been the significant decrease in the average number of children they bear, which fell from 5.9 in the first half of the 1950s to 3.4 in the second half of the 1980s. The subject of reproduction is currently taking on a new dimension, related to personal freedom of choice and manifested by a conscious separation between sexuality and reproduction and by the search for more effective methods of controlling fertility. The main problems that persist in this area for most women arise from their effective lack of access to such methods for reasons related to education, information and cost.

The work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium will specifically take into account these changes and the fact that the trends implicit in the region's development styles are opening up new opportunities for women in areas such as education, gainful employment, establishment of shared codes of communication and, in general, the spread of alternative and more diversified models of women's role in society. At the same time, the work programme will be aimed at ensuring that the development of those trends will forge new linkages between the public and private spheres and will foster more equitable interpersonal relations, especially between men and women.

The scheduled activities will include the analysis of, and proposed measures to improve, both the situation of specific, highly vulnerable groups of women and the integration into society of women in general, regardless of their socio-economic situation. In the first area, special attention will be given, inter alia, to women in the informal sector, women heads of household and women living in extreme poverty; the second area will cover topics concerning women's relation to various issues of particular importance for their social integration, such as politics, public life, decision-making and domestic violence.

Moreover, the Unit will continue the activities carried out since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women, in which the regional commissions were given a central role, primarily in three areas: coordination of national actions and support for them in the form of studies, diagnoses and recommendations; coordination of their activities with those of the other agencies of the United Nations system; and implementation of concrete activities through projects, technical cooperation and the generation and dissemination of new knowledge. In the 1996-1997 biennium, these regular tasks will have to be supplemented by others, mainly in response to the recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, which will adopt a new Platform for Action. In addition, there is a need to put into practice the regional programme of action for the women of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be adopted by the Governments in 1994 at the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, and will be widely disseminated in 1995. In relation to this last area, two expert meetings will be held to consider priority topics related to the regional programme of action.

Lastly, the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 1997, and the various meetings of its Presiding Officers during the biennium will constitute important forums for analysing and implementing the activities and recommendations emanating from the above-mentioned events, and will also provide appropriate opportunities for evaluating the progress made in promoting women's advancement in the region.

1. Activities

Subject area 1: Integration of women into Latin American and Caribbean development

a) Substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

i) Three meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, one of them at the session of the Regional Conference.

ii) Seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, in the second half of 1997.

iii) Meetings of the Committee of High-level Government Experts on the topic of women, prior to the seventh session of the Regional Conference.

b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Two meetings of experts to consider priority topics deriving from the regional programme of action for the women of Latin America and the Caribbean.

c) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings

Two inter-agency meetings with organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

d) Non-recurrent publications

i) Reports of activities of the secretariat (substantive documentation for the meetings of the Presiding Officers and the seventh session of the Regional Conference).

ii) Four publications in the Mujer y desarrollo series, covering the topics of education and employment, and women living in poverty.

iii) Edited summaries of documents on topics relating to women's integration in development, to be published in book form. The topics will include women's participation in society and human rights and violence.

e) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to the countries, at their request, in connection with women's integration in development.

Group training

Support to the countries, at their request, for the training activities of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities and academic centres in the field of gender and development.

f) Intermediate activities

i) Documents and reports of the meetings of the Presiding Officers and of the seventh session of the Regional Conference.

ii) Reports for submission to inter-agency meetings of the United Nations system.

iii) Studies on specific topics to help strengthen the link between the topic of women and the rest of the ECLAC system's work.

The implementation of these operational activities and the activity mentioned in d) ii) above is contingent upon the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

These activities will be carried out in close cooperation with the divisions and subregional headquarters of ECLAC; in particular, the monitoring of the latter's substantive activities will be coordinated in order to ensure consideration of the gender variable and to integrate their contributions to the topic of women into the secretariat's work.

Collaboration will continue with various agencies of the United Nations system, especially the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

Close ties of cooperation will be maintained with the specialized agencies of the United Nations within the region, mainly through coordination of activities related to the topic of women.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of these activities will be government authorities and officials responsible for formulating and implementing policies, programmes and projects related to women's integration in economic and social development in the countries of the region. Moreover, the outputs will be particularly useful for supporting the activities of various non-governmental organizations, academic centres and research and advocacy institutes active in this field.

Users will be reached through the distribution of publications, participation in intergovernmental meetings and meetings of experts and provision of technical cooperation and training services.

SUBPROGRAMME 10: STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS

Presentation

The national statistical systems of most countries of the region have recently undergone major changes, incorporating available technological advances, especially in data processing. In addition to supporting that process, ECLAC has been accumulating valuable experience in this field and developing new working methods by organizing large-scale data banks integrated into a standardized access system.

The activities to be carried out under this subprogramme by the Statistics and Economic Projections Division during the biennium 1996-1997 generally seek to broaden and develop substantive aspects in the following fields: i) maintenance and development of a regional framework of statistical information designed to support studies and projects carried out by ECLAC, provide specialized information to member States, international organizations and research institutions, and meet the growing demand from the private sector; ii) development of specific theoretical and practical aspects of statistics and quantitative analysis, for use in studies on the region's economic and social development; iii) regional cooperation and dissemination and transfer of computer technologies for statistical work in the countries of the region; iv) medium- and long-term forward-working studies on the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean; and v) substantive servicing of intergovernmental and expert meetings, seminars and training courses and provision of advisory services to Governments.

Activities related to the development of a regional framework of statistical information will centre on organizing and expanding databases on different subjects and facilitating user access. On the latter point, a standardized system for accessing the databases will be established in order to provide direct services to the ECLAC computer network and to those of the United Nations economic and social information system. It is also hoped to instal a remote computer connection system with the national statistical offices of the countries of the region, in order to be able to exchange statistical information instantaneously.

Regional statistics and indicators will continue to be prepared and published annually in the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean and in the Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean. In conjunction with the Social Development Division, studies will also be prepared for the Panorama social de América Latina, which is to be published on an annual basis.

In the field of statistical development and quantitative analysis, priority will continue to be given, through the preparation and provision of technical documents, to the application of the main international statistical classifications, such as the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Rev.3), the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC, Rev.3), the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) and the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (CBEC). Special attention will be given to aspects related to the installation of the new System of National Accounts (SNA, Rev.4), which is presenting considerable difficulties in the countries of the region. To that end, studies will be carried out on national experiences and a meeting of experts will be held to examine the progress made in installing the system in the region.

The programme of work also includes activities to improve methods for estimating income distribution, situations of poverty, employment, the labour force and other social indicators. Special

attention will be paid to designing and applying an integrated method for measuring poverty that includes indicators of various aspects of human development, and to establishing a set of social indicators, based on statistics and estimates, that follow the principles of standardization governing data banks.

In the area of technical cooperation with the member States, mainly with their national statistical offices, the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas for the biennium will be organized. In addition, two other meetings of experts will be held, one to analyse studies of social indicators and the other to examine the methodological and substantive aspects of forward-looking studies.

Cooperation in the organization and holding of workshops or seminars on specialized statistical techniques, mostly in relation to the application of the latest recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, will also continue. Training will be provided in the use of social indicators to disseminate methodologies in the region that make it possible to: i) identify the most disadvantaged social groups and determine their characteristics with respect to age, gender, kind of work, education and geographical location; ii) determine situations for the formulation of alternative policies designed to alleviate poverty and improve living conditions; and iii) describe the demographic, economic and social attributes of the different population groups to be targeted by specific policies for increasing social equity.

The main objective with regard to economic projections will be to analyse economic and social development process of the countries of the region, from a medium- and long-term perspective, with a view to detecting the most serious problems and formulating alternative strategies for solving them. Meeting this objective requires the preparation of economic and social projections, using the latest techniques in this field, to serve as a quantitative framework for analytical country-level and, for specific areas, regional-level studies.

Given the growing interdependence of the global economy and the major influence of external factors on the economies of countries of the region, emphasis in this subject area will continue to be placed on the systematization and analysis of forward-looking studies made by international agencies and public and private institutions. This material will serve as a basis for studying the prospects of individual countries and of the region as a whole for establishing linkages with the global economy.

Lastly, the preparation of projections to serve as a quantitative basis for forward-looking studies and to support other programmes of the ECLAC secretariat will continue to be a permanent activity. In this regard, it will be necessary periodically to revise and update numerous statistical series and systematically to improve the econometric models in use, as computer facilities grow, new methodological instruments are developed, and the possibility arises of incorporating other subject areas in which quantitative data are expanded satisfactorily.

1. Activities

Subject area 10.1: Economic and social statistical data bank for Latin America and the Caribbean

Technical material

Data banks on various subject areas will be organized and developed and then integrated into a standardized access system directly connected to the ECLAC computer network and the economic and

social information system of the United Nations. It is hoped to establish a remote computer connection with the national statistical offices of the region, in order to be able to exchange statistical data instantaneously.

Subject area 10.2: Regional statistics and indicators

a) Recurrent publications

i) Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean (two issues).

ii) A statistical summary and estimate of the annual preliminary overview of the economy of Latin America and the Caribbean (two publications in the biennium, included in the Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean).

b) Non-recurrent publications

Panorama social de América Latina (two publications in the biennium, in conjunction with the Social Development Division).

Subject area 10.3: Statistical support for ECLAC studies and projects

Intermediate activities

Statistical support for ECLAC studies and projects.

Subject area 10.4: Social statistics

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse studies on income distribution, situations of poverty, employment, the labour force and other social indicators.

b) Non-recurrent publications

Five documents on estimates of income distribution, situations of poverty, employment, the labour force and other social indicators.

Subject area 10.5: National accounts and indicators of economic development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse the progress made in implementing the new System of National Accounts.

b) Recurrent publications

Cuadernos estadísticos de la CEPAL, two issues in the biennium: one on foreign trade statistics in a specialized area and the other on external debt statistics and external financing indicators.

c) Non-recurrent publications

i) Two documents concerning national experiences in implementing the new System of National Accounts (SNA), Rev.4.

ii) One document on foreign trade statistics in a specific subject area to be determined.

iii) One document on foreign trade statistics according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), by groups of countries.

Subject area 10.6: Technical cooperation with member States and with regional statistical bodies

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas, held every two years.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, with respect to household surveys, statistical organization, economic statistics and national accounts, the transfer of computer-related techniques in the field of statistics, the design of econometric models and economic projection techniques.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 10.7: Workshops, seminars and training courses

Operational activities

a) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to the countries of the region, through cooperation with member States and regional institutions, with respect to:

i) the organization and holding of workshops or seminars dealing mainly with the application of the latest recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission;

ii) specialized statistical techniques, including computer applications.

b) Group training

Training will be given in the estimation and use of social indicators, such as those related to income distribution, the measurement of poverty situations and employment characteristics, for different social groups.

The execution of activities in this subject area, all of which are operational activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 10.8: Evaluation and forward-looking analysis of the development process in the Latin American and Caribbean countries

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to examine the methodological and substantive aspects of forward-looking studies and to review progress in establishing a system of indicators.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) Two reports on the medium- and long-term prospects for the economic and social development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

ii) Two studies on the prospects for the international economy, emphasizing the economies of the developed countries with greater trade potential and the external linkages of the region.

iii) Two documents combining medium- and long-term projections on macroeconomic and sectoral topics; these projections are made for most countries of the region and serve as a basis for carrying out forward-looking studies.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities in the field of statistics will be carried out in coordination and close collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT), the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and the secretariats of regional integration bodies. In its external relations, ECLAC will maintain cooperation and liaison mainly with the national statistical offices of the member States; within the ECLAC system, such links will be maintained mainly with the Economic Development Division, the International Trade, Finance and Transport Division, the Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industrial and Technological Development Unit and the Social Development Division and with the subregional headquarters.

These activities will be linked and coordinated with those carried out by other international, regional and subregional bodies, according to their nature and subject area. Specifically, activities dealing with economic statistics, national accounts and economic development indicators will be coordinated with those of the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Statistical Office of the European Communities

(EUROSTAT) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), while activities in the area of social statistics will be linked with those carried out by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT), through its National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP).

Technical cooperation and training activities will be closely coordinated with UNDP, UNSTAT, particularly the National Accounts Section and NHSCP, the regional offices of specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the EEC European Training Centre for Economic Statisticians of Developing Countries (CESD - Madrid). Some of these activities will also be carried out in collaboration with the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), the Organization of American States (OAS) and UNCTAD.

Activities in the area of economic projections will be carried out in close communication with the substantive divisions of ECLAC, with the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA) of the United Nations and with the Project LINK research centre. Regular contact will also be maintained with other centres and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and with government institutions of the countries of the region.

3. Users and anticipated use of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be the government institutions of member States, in particular, national statistical offices, central banks, economic ministries and the agencies in charge of formulating and implementing economic and social policies. The outputs will also be used by regional integration bodies and international organizations that require an overview of Latin America and the Caribbean and regional statistics that are comparable with those of other regions of the world. Such users include experts from UNDP and other United Nations bodies responsible for preparing reports and technical cooperation projects. Universities, research institutes and other private sector bodies are also frequent users.

The professional staff of the ECLAC system will continue to be important users of the economic and social statistical data bank. The public and private bodies mentioned in the previous paragraph will also continue to have direct access to information through remote computer connection, computer aids or print-outs. Technical publications and specialized reports will be generated from these databases.

The main users of the outputs in the area of economic projections will be the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, specialized United Nations agencies and regional organizations. The reports and studies based on economic projections will be used as reference documents for formulating national development plans, designing strategies and evaluating policies for the economic and social development of the region. They will also be used to support studies of regional cooperation agreements and in intergovernmental meetings concerned with development policies.

SUBPROGRAMME 11: TRANSPORT

Presentation

The ECLAC programme of activities in the field of transport reflects the need for the Latin American and Caribbean countries to consolidate the process of restructuring and modernization which many of them have been implementing in this sector for the past decade. The growth of the large economic blocs of the northern hemisphere will make it increasingly imperative to maximize the contribution of transport systems to the competitiveness of regional trade in a context of economic globalization.

The subprogramme's general aim is to support the countries of the region in their efforts to enhance the efficiency of infrastructure administration and maintenance and to improve the management of transport services by strengthening the relevant public and private entities.

The activities planned for the biennium 1996-1997 will focus on three main areas: i) management of the transport sector in general, including the facilitation of operations and services in the physical chain of distribution related to international trade; ii) land and urban transport, including road and rail transport; and iii) maritime and multimodal transport, including ports.

The facilitation of transport is a topic of ongoing interest; it is intended to reduce formalities and various other institutional obstacles to the rapid and expeditious movement of goods in both national and international trade. One particularly effective way of not only achieving this result but also taking advantage of modern management techniques is to use electronic data interchange (EDI) to transmit all information related to those movements. The activities to be carried out in the first subject area will include an analysis of the progress made in the use of electronic data interchange in the countries of the region, and continued publication of the bimonthly FAL Bulletin on the facilitation of trade and transport in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In recent years, there has been a persistent trend towards further economic and social integration of the region. Land transport plays a vital role in this process, since railways and roads are the primary routes linking these countries, even though significant obstacles still prevent the region from achieving the desired degree of unity. Urban transport stands out among the various types of land transport because problems of congestion and pollution, largely attributable to automobile transport, often take on extreme proportions in large metropolitan areas.

To help the countries find appropriate solutions to these problems, various aspects of a number of possible options for managing demand for the use of transport infrastructure will be studied in the second subject area, and the impact of the reorientation of economic policy on the different modes of passenger transport will be analysed and evaluated. Moreover, support will continue to be provided for the activities of various regional and subregional intergovernmental agencies to improve infrastructure and operational procedures for land transport, with special emphasis on those that seek to strengthen integration among the countries of the region. Lastly, in the field of urban transport, cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean cities, based mainly on the analysis of their respective experiences, will continue to be supported.

Maritime and multimodal transport are the chief modes of transport used for foreign trade, meaning that the constant enhancement of their efficiency through technological and institutional modernization is essential for the competitiveness of the region's exports. In this context, ports play a central role as an interface between the national and international environments. Therefore, the third subject area will focus on analysing the factors that affect changes in maritime and multimodal transport, and on identifying actions designed to initiate or consolidate the restructuring of ports, with a view to expediting overseas trade and supporting regional integration.

1. Activities

Subject area 11.1: Management of the transport sector

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Regional meeting of experts to examine the progress made in using electronic data interchange to facilitate national and international trade and transport in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to propose actions for broadening its scope in countries that are just beginning to use this technique.

b) Recurrent publications

FAL Bulletin, a bimonthly publication on the facilitation of trade and transport in Latin America and the Caribbean.

c) Non-recurrent publications

A study on the progress made in using electronic data interchange to facilitate national and international trade and transport in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

d) Intermediate activities

Support for the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) and the Meeting of National Customs Directors of Latin America, Spain and Portugal concerning customs matters.

The execution of the activity mentioned in c) is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 11.2: Land and urban transport

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Regional meeting of experts to consider the options available for managing demand for the use of transport infrastructure.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A comparative study of rates and non-monetary quantitative measures as options for managing demand for the use of transport infrastructure.

ii) An analysis and evaluation of the impact of the current liberalization of economic policy on different modes of passenger transport in various Latin American and Caribbean countries.

c) Intermediate activities

Support for the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the Latin American Railways Association, the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), as well as the South American Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Public Works, concerning land transport.

The execution of the activity mentioned in b) ii) is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 11.3: Maritime and multimodal transport

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on the current situation and prospects for change in multimodal transport in Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study of factors likely to effect changes in maritime transport in the long term.

ii) A study on the role of multimodal transport in regional integration.

c) Intermediate activities

Support for LAIA, the Central American Commission of Port Authorities, the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, MERCOSUR and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), as well as the South American Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Public Works, concerning maritime and multimodal transport.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Close cooperation will be maintained with LAIA, the Latin American Railways Association, the Central American Commission of Port Authorities, the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, MERCOSUR, SIECA and SELA; with the South American Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Public Works and the Meeting of National Customs Directors of Latin America, Spain and Portugal; and

with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). In each case, cooperation will be established in accordance with the relevant subject areas.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be the public and private institutions of the countries of the region which deal with the areas mentioned, particularly ministries of public works and transport; maritime, port, customs and municipal authorities; and business associations and other private-sector organizations.

Users will be reached through the distribution of publications, support for public- and private-sector projects and agencies and participation in intergovernmental meetings and meetings of experts.

SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Presentation

This subprogramme comprises all the activities of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico, whose sphere of action covers the Central American countries, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. In designing these activities, special consideration was given to the specific needs of each of the countries within the sphere of action of the subregional headquarters.

In the early 1990s, the results of stabilization policies were consolidated and government measures were implemented to make structural changes in the subregion's economies, with the specific aim of improving their linkages with the international economy, reactivating existing integration processes and forming new free trade areas. However, the subregion still faces great challenges, such as its widening trade deficit, shortcomings in the area of global competitiveness, dramatic poverty levels and severe labour market imbalances.

In this context, the activities to be carried out during the biennium 1996-1997 will be concerned mainly with consolidating the process of sustainable development, based on rising levels of productivity and social equity. Continued support will also be given to efforts to consolidate integration among the Central American countries and to strengthen their trade relations and cooperation with other Latin American and Caribbean countries, especially the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela), and with the United States market.

This subprogramme comprises two major subject areas. The first covers a number of general activities related to economic development, social development, international trade and economic integration, all of which form a complementary, integrated whole. The second subject area covers activities that are particularly important to the subregion's goal of changing production patterns, inter alia, in the food and agriculture, industrial development and energy sectors.

In the field of economic development, the subprogramme will continue its systematic evaluation of economic trends in the 10 countries of the subregion, analysing the consolidation of national and regional bases for development and researching issues of particular relevance to the coordination of macroeconomic policies. Special emphasis will be placed on analysing the interrelationship among the following topics: i) production and investment, especially aspects such as flexibility of the model for accessing external markets, efficient absorption of new technologies and increasing factor productivity; ii) employment, considering the net creation of gainful employment in proportion to the growth of the economically active population, with emphasis on policies for training human capital; and iii) promoting domestic savings and better use of external savings. In this area, the expansion of domestic financial markets and the encouragement of popular saving (pension funds), the mobilization of family remittances, tax reform and the attraction of foreign investment will be analysed, with a view to strengthening the bases for an integrated, region-wide production system.

Activities concerned with social development will focus on analysing the decentralization resulting from the redefinition of the State's role, the privatization process and the efforts of civil society to attain greater levels of social well-being. Moreover, special importance will be attached to the issue of women, the dynamic of social spending and the process of elaborating social indicators.

Activities concerning integration and international trade will focus on strengthening the external linkages of the countries covered by the subregional headquarters. In particular, efforts will be made to improve the countries' position in their subregional integration processes and in the conduct of trade negotiations with their main trading partners. Further studies will be carried out to evaluate the Central American integration process and the progress of economic complementation between that subregion and Mexico. The work of the forums in charge of implementing presidential decisions and of the Central American integration bodies in the area of external trade policy will be considered. Support will continue to be provided for the work of the Inter-Agency Commission on Implementation of the Decisions of the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee.

Three lines of action are envisaged in the area of agricultural development: i) evaluation of the impact of trade liberalization on selected countries in the subregion; ii) study of the activities of associations of small-scale producers; and iii) analysis of the sustainability of agriculture in some Caribbean countries.

During the biennium 1996-1997, the subregional headquarters will continue to analyse the manufacturing industry in the countries of the subregion; in particular, it will evaluate the effects of economic integration processes on production, as well as the policies and institutions needed to change production structures in order to enhance efficiency and competitiveness.

Lastly, the activities regarding energy are aimed at furthering the integration of the Central American energy sector. Support for regional interconnection projects and advisory services for the restructuring of the electricity subsector will continue to be provided. The analysis of possibilities for improving the supply of hydrocarbons will remain a high priority, and active participation in the various Central American forums dealing with the energy sector will continue. Activities aimed at strengthening trade in energy between the Group of Three and the Central American countries will also be emphasized.

1. Activities

Subject area 12.1: Global aspects of economic and social development and of external relations in the countries of the subregion

1. Economic development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

i) Meeting of experts on the promotion of savings for national development and social welfare: the experience of some countries in the subregion.

ii) Meeting of experts on macroeconomic equilibrium and the coordination of sectoral and social policies.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on macroeconomic equilibrium and the coordination of sectoral and social policies at the national and regional levels in the countries of the subregion.

ii) A study on domestic saving and the development of national financial markets in conditions of financial liberalization in Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic.

c) Technical material

i) Notes on economic trends in the countries of the subregion in 1995 (10 documents).

ii) Notes on economic trends in the countries of the subregion in 1996 (10 documents).

iii) Contribution to the Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1996.

iv) Contribution to the Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1997.

v) Economic Panorama of Mexico and Central America, 1996.

vi) Economic Panorama of Mexico and Central America, 1997.

vii) Updating and expansion of the database of economic and social statistics, and preparation and updating of short-term economic and development indicators.

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the subregion that request them, for designing global economic policies and monitoring and evaluating development policies and programmes.

e) Intermediate activities

i) Substantive support for intergovernmental meetings between Mexico and Central America.

ii) Technical support for the Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Central American Economic Integration and Regional Development and the meetings of the Inter-Agency Commission on Implementation of the Decisions of the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee.

iii) Substantive support for the meetings of the Regional Advisory Group for Central America.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Social development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on public participation in the development and decentralization of social policy.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the participation of civil society in social development measures.

ii) A study on the decentralization of social policy measures.

iii) A study on women and society in selected countries of the subregion.

c) Technical material

Annual elaboration of basic social indicators for the countries covered by the subregional headquarters.

3. International trade

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

i) Meeting of experts on Central American competitiveness and economic complementation with selected Latin American markets.

ii) Meeting of experts on the development of subregional free trade agreements.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on regional competitiveness and economic complementation with selected Latin American and Caribbean markets.

ii) A study on progress in forming free trade areas based on subregional and regional agreements.

iii) An annual study on the evolution of Central American economic integration and regional trade.

c) Technical material

Updating of the data bank on Central American trade and trade in the Caribbean countries covered by the subregional headquarters.

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries that request them, concerning external trade policies, trade negotiations and economic integration.

e) Intermediate activities

Substantive support for the Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Central American Economic Integration and Regional Development, on aspects related to international trade.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.2: Sectoral aspects of economic and social development in the countries of the subregion

1. Food and agriculture

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

i) Meeting of experts on the impact of trade liberalization on agriculture in selected countries of the subregion.

ii) Meeting of experts on the activities of associations of small-scale producers in Central America.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the impact of liberalizing trade in agricultural products in selected countries of the subregion.

ii) A study on the activities of production associations with a view to agricultural restructuring, with emphasis on small-scale producers in Central America.

iii) A study on the sustainability of agriculture in selected Caribbean countries covered by the subregional headquarters.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, to countries of the region that request them, on agricultural development and policies.

d) Intermediate activities

Compilation and processing of information for the elaboration of the studies mentioned in b).

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Industrial development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on the impact of economic integration processes on production.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the impact of economic integration processes on production in the countries of the subregion.

ii) A study on the progress made in changing production patterns in Central America's manufacturing sector.

c) Technical material

Maintenance of a data bank on manufactures production and trade in the countries of the subregion.

3. Energy

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

i) Meeting of directors and managers of Central American electric power companies to consider the progress of integration projects in the electricity subsector.

ii) Meeting of directors-general of State secretariats and directors of public enterprises in the hydrocarbon subsector in Central America, to consider the study on the supply of hydrocarbons.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A study on the supply of hydrocarbons in the subregion.

ii) A study on the integration of the electricity subsector in Central America.

c) Technical material

Updating of databases on energy.

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

Monitoring of the regional electric-power integration projects of the Interconnection System of the Countries of Central America, and those of the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) with Central America.

Group training

Two seminars: one on technical questions related to the supply of hydrocarbons, and one on changes in the supply of hydrocarbons to Central America.

e) Intermediate activities

i) Technical support for periodic meetings of the Central American Electrification Council and the Central American Regional Electrical Interconnection Group.

ii) Technical support for periodic meetings of the Central American Committee for Cooperation on Hydrocarbons.

The execution of operational activities and of the activities mentioned in a) ii) and e) ii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

The activities of this subprogramme, which relate to economic trends in the countries served by ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico, will be carried out in close collaboration with the ECLAC Economic Development Division; some of the above-mentioned outputs will be used in the Division's systematic analyses of economic trends in the region. In carrying out the activities related to social development, international trade and integration, close contact and collaboration will be maintained with ECLAC divisions, particularly the Social Development Division, the International Trade, Finance and Transport Division, and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, and with the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). Joint studies will be conducted with ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

Regular consultations will also be held and actions coordinated or carried out jointly, in each of the fields mentioned, with other United Nations bodies and with international, regional and subregional institutions, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and the secretariat of the Central American Monetary Council.

The activities dealing with sectoral aspects will be carried out in close contact with the respective ECLAC divisions, and regular relations will be maintained and actions coordinated, in each of the specific fields, with other international, regional and subregional bodies.

The activities concerning food and agriculture will be implemented in coordination with the ECLAC Agricultural Development Unit and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Consultations will be held with CABEI, SIECA and the Regional Agricultural Cooperation Council (CORECA).

The activities related to industrial development will be carried out in constant coordination with the Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industrial and Technological Development Unit. Periodic consultations will be initiated with subregional institutions such as CABEI, SIECA and the Central American Research Institute for Industry (ICAITI), as well as with projects of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other cooperation agencies working in the subregion.

Activities in the field of energy will be implemented in coordination with the ECLAC Natural Resources and Energy Division. Consultations will be held on a regular basis and actions will be coordinated with regional and subregional institutions such as IDB, the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), the Central American Electrification Council, CABEI and SIECA, as well as with UNDP and the World Bank.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be government authorities and officials responsible for economic and social affairs and for formulating and implementing policies, programmes and projects in the subject areas mentioned, as well as international, regional and subregional technical and financial cooperation agencies.

It is expected that the aforementioned users will draw on the subprogramme's outputs as references in performing their functions in their respective areas of responsibility, and that the outputs will be of value for decision-making.

The outputs will be widely disseminated and may also be used by other institutions, particularly in the private sector, such as academic and research centres, non-governmental organizations for the promotion of development, business labour, technical and professional associations, and the press.

Users will be reached through the distribution of documents, technical cooperation and participation in intergovernmental meetings and meetings of experts.

SUBPROGRAMME 13: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Presentation

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will continue to analyse issues of special relevance to the economic and social development of the countries members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and to make recommendations thereon, with a view to providing technical cooperation and advisory services geared to those countries' specific needs. It intends to continue the practice, introduced under the work programme for the 1994-1995 biennium, of more explicitly taking into account the needs and priorities of the countries covered, as articulated by their representatives at the sessions of CDCC and the meetings of its Monitoring Committee. The work programme largely reflects the outcome of recent discussions on the role and functions of CDCC and the intention to continue the process of revitalizing it, which began at the thirteenth session of CDCC and continued at the fourteenth.

The work programme for 1996-1997 assigns high priority to promoting cooperation in functional and sectoral areas, both among the Caribbean member countries and between them and the Latin American countries. ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will work with ECLAC headquarters and with other public and private organizations in pursuing greater cooperation with Latin America within the framework already established. As part of the effort to promote cooperation among CDCC members, the work programme reflects the high priority accorded by member countries to the development of a programme to reduce the language barriers that hinder such cooperation. With the same goal in mind, the subregional headquarters will consider the special circumstances and needs of the non-independent Caribbean countries within the framework of the United Nations system, and will convene a workshop of CDCC focal points to promote awareness of the functions and aims of CDCC and provide a firmer foundation for collaboration among the member countries. The proposed workshop will be based on the excellent results of the first such workshop, held at Port of Spain in July 1992.

The issue of island developing countries, which was given the status of a separate subject area in 1994-1995 in direct response to repeated requests from CDCC that this topic be accorded higher priority, will again be addressed. The work in this area will take into account the results of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Research will be conducted on the development circumstances of small island developing countries and on their relations with the international community.

In the context of the structural adjustment measures adopted by a number of countries in recent years, social aspects of development will be explored, bearing in mind the role of non-governmental organizations in the development process. The conclusions of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development will be duly considered.

Emphasis will continue to be placed on issues affecting women in Caribbean development, including assistance to member countries in following up the 1995 World Conference on Women. In general, under this subject area, special attention will be given to issues related to gender equality in the Caribbean.

With respect to the environment, the subregional headquarters will update its database of environmental statistics and continue its study of the environmental implications of development in the

Caribbean. The work in this subject area will take due account of the conclusions of the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It is expected that the permanent secretariat of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) will be in charge of activities relating to science and technology for the 1994-1995 biennium. It is also expected that population and development activities will continue under the work programme and will be funded by the regular budget of the subregional headquarters; this topic was included in the last biennium in response to the mandates of the member countries. The work in this area will reflect the results of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will continue to prepare annual summaries of the economic performance of the countries of the subregion. It plans to organize and provide substantive servicing for a meeting on issues related to national economic management and planning. The implications for member countries of global and regional economic development will be reviewed, and studies will be carried out on economic integration and on the financial aspects of Caribbean development. A newsletter on international economic developments will continue to be published for the benefit of the smaller CDCC members countries in particular. With regard to the industrial sector, further studies will be conducted on industrial policy in the countries of the subregion; and the Economic and Social Council's mandate to address issues related to tourism will also be taken into account.

The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will continue to service the Caribbean Information System in accordance with its own work programme and with the needs of member countries. It will also continue to provide statistical support for the execution of its approved work programme and, more generally, will help member countries to improve their statistical capabilities.

With respect to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), a study will be elaborated on the integration process within this group of CDCC member countries, and technical support will be provided in priority areas of development cooperation.

Pursuant to the mandates received from the Governments of the member countries, every effort will be made to work in close collaboration with other ECLAC offices, other agencies of the United Nations system and regional organizations in the Caribbean.

1. Activities

Subject area 13.1: Promotion of cooperation among the members of CDCC and between the Caribbean and Latin America

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse issues related to development cooperation that affect the members of CDCC.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) Study of possibilities for increased cooperation in economic and non-economic areas between the Caribbean and Latin America.

ii) Study of possibilities for enhancing economic and other relationships among the members of CDCC.

iii) A document on topics of particular interest to the non-independent members of CDCC.

c) Information materials and services

Publication of an information bulletin on the removal of language barriers among the members of CDCC.

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical assistance services for the removal of language barriers to increased cooperation among the members of CDCC.

e) Intermediate activities

i) Report on action taken on the decisions and recommendations of CDCC and other United Nations bodies.

ii) Report on the participation of member countries in the work of CDCC.

The implementation of these operational activities and the activity mentioned in c) is contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.2: Island developing countries

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on development issues affecting the subregion's island countries.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A study on development problems that relate to the subregion's island countries.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, upon request, to members of CDCC with a view to ensuring effective follow-up of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.3: Women and development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on problems of gender equality in the Caribbean.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) A document on issues of gender equality in the Caribbean.

ii) A document on considerations regarding the 1995 World Conference on Women, from the Caribbean perspective.

c) Technical material

Updating and publication of the computerized bibliographical database on women and development (WINDEV).

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, upon request, to member countries in implementing activities under the ECLAC and CDCC programme on women and development.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.4: Economic and social development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Expert meeting to study relevant aspects of economic management and planning in the Caribbean countries.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) Two annual summaries of the economic performance of the members of CDCC.

ii) A study on social aspects of development in the Caribbean countries.

iii) A study on the trade policies of the members of CDCC during 1994-1995, with special emphasis on analysing prospects and proposals for action.

iv) A study on the performance of financial institutions, with emphasis on policy proposals.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

i) Provision of technical cooperation services, upon request, to the member countries and national and regional institutions in analysing and planning economic and social development.

ii) Collaboration with non-governmental organizations in promoting economic and social development in the Caribbean.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.5: International trade and finance

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) A document on specific aspects of economic integration in the Caribbean.

ii) A document on financial development in the Caribbean.

iii) A document on global and regional developments and their impact on the countries of the subregion.

b) Information materials and services

Newsletter on international trade developments.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, upon request, to member countries and subregional institutions in conducting activities under the ECLAC programme on international trade and finance.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.6: Tourism and industry

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) Two studies on relevant aspects of industrial policy in the countries of the subregion.

ii) A study on the performance and prospects of tourism in Caribbean countries.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services, upon request, to member countries in connection with the development of industry and tourism.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.7: Environment and development

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on the use of economic and financial instruments to promote the objectives of sustainable development.

b) Non-recurrent publications

i) Updated environmental statistics on Caribbean countries.

ii) A study on the environmental and economic implications of sustainable development in the countries of the Caribbean subregion.

c) Technical material

Updating of a computerized environmental database, which will provide the members of CDCC with on-line access to this information.

d) Operational activities

Advisory services

i) Provision of advisory services, at the request of Governments, in the area of environment and development.

ii) Provision of technical cooperation services, upon request, to member countries in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

iii) Active collaboration with other United Nations bodies and interested organizations, in the area of statistics on sustainable development.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.8: Science and technology

a) Servicing of intergovernmental meetings

i) Substantive servicing of two plenary sessions and four meetings of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST).

ii) Two special meetings of experts from the technological extension service.

iii) A special meeting of experts from the core group of the project on the history of science and technology.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A report on the current organization and management of science and technology in the subregion.

c) Technical material

Organization and development of a database on science and technology for the use of small- and medium-scale industry.

d) Operational activities

Projects on science and technology are expected to be under way during the biennium.

e) Intermediate activities

Formulation of cooperation projects aimed at promoting science and technology in the Caribbean subregion.

The implementation of these operational activities and the activities mentioned in a) ii) and a) iii) is contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.9: Information, documentation and statistical services

Caribbean Information System

a) Recurrent publications

Four issues of CARISPLAN Abstracts (English only).

b) Information materials and services

i) Collection, organization and dissemination of documents in support of the work programme of the secretariat of the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

ii) Twenty issues of Current Awareness Bulletin (English only).

c) Technical material

Maintenance and storage of bibliographic and full-text databases for remote access.

Statistical services

a) Non-recurrent publications

Two publications on the main economic indicators for the Caribbean countries (one for each year of the biennium).

b) Technical material

i) Incorporation into the database of statistics on intra-CDCC trade and selected statistical indicators for the Caribbean countries.

ii) Improvement of the design of the database to facilitate remote access and the dissemination of statistics relating to the economic and social situation of the Caribbean countries.

c) Operational activities

Provision of training and advisory services, upon request, to the members of CDCC to modernize their statistical services and organize national databases.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Patent information and documentation

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings

Meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Information System on Patents.

b) Non-recurrent publication

Report of the meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Information System on Patents.

The implementation of the above-mentioned activities is contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.10: Technical support for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

a) Non-recurrent publications

A study on specific aspects of development cooperation among the countries members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of advisory services to the States members of OECS, through its secretariat, in priority areas of development cooperation among these countries.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.11: Population and development

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) A digest of socio-economic statistics.

ii) A study on the relationship among population, development and poverty.

iii) A study on teenage fertility and socio-economic relations in the Caribbean subregion.

iv) A document on demographic projections for the period 1990-2010 for the Caribbean subregion.

b) Technical material

i) Updating and expansion of the socio-demographic database.

ii) Expansion of computerized data systems on vital statistics.

c) Operational activities

i) Provision of training and advisory services, upon request, to countries members of CDCC in the fields of population policy implementation and evaluation, integration of population information into development planning, demographic analysis techniques and evaluation and analysis of census data and vital statistics.

ii) Launching of activities to follow up the International Conference on Population and Development (September 1994) and, in particular, the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 13.12: Substantive servicing of CDCC meetings

Organization and substantive servicing of meetings

Two sessions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and two meetings of its Monitoring Committee.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

The activities of this subprogramme will be carried out in close collaboration with ECLAC headquarters, and regular consultations will be held and activities coordinated, in each of the areas mentioned, with various United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as well as with other international, regional and subregional organizations.

For the implementation of activities related to the economic behaviour and international trade of the countries served by the subregional headquarters, periodic consultations will be held with different divisions of the ECLAC system, particularly the Economic Development Division, the International Trade, Finance and Transport Division and the Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industrial and Technological Development Unit, and with ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico, concerning inputs related to Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Consultations will also be held with UNCTAD, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and with the central banks of the member countries, concerning specialized information for annual studies.

The activities dealing with social issues, particularly the integration of women into development, will be carried out in close contact with the ECLAC Social Development Division and the Unit for the Integration of Women in Development, while regular consultations will be maintained and actions coordinated in each specific field with other international, regional and subregional agencies, such as the secretariat of CARICOM, the Caribbean branch of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN/MUDAR), the Women's Studies Department of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and some United Nations bodies, including the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The activities in the areas of industrial development and tourism will be carried out in close collaboration with the Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industrial and Technological Development Unit. Regular consultations will also be maintained and activities coordinated with the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and other national and regional public and private organizations related to this subject area.

The activities regarding natural resources and the environment will be carried out in coordination with the ECLAC Natural Resources and Energy Division and the Environment and Human Settlements Division. Coordination will also be maintained with UNEP, UNESCO and other United Nations agencies, and will include joint activities and consultations. Collaboration will also continue with subregional

institutions such as CARICOM, OECS, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA).

Population activities will be carried out primarily in collaboration with the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) of ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be government authorities and officials responsible for economic and social affairs and for formulating and implementing policies, programmes and projects in the subject areas mentioned, as well as international, regional and subregional technical and financial cooperation agencies.

It is envisaged that the above-mentioned users will utilize these outputs as reference elements in fulfilling their functions in their respective areas of responsibility.

The outputs will be widely disseminated and may also be used by other institutions, particularly in the private sector, such as academic and research centres, non-governmental organizations for the promotion of development, entrepreneurial, labour and technico-professional associations and by the press.

Users will be reached through the distribution of documents, dissemination through the Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC), technical cooperation and their participation in intergovernmental meetings and meetings of experts.

SUBPROGRAMME 14: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION

Presentation

This subprogramme focuses on monitoring and evaluating economic integration and regional cooperation and providing technical support to the countries of the region in those areas, with a view to promoting the full use of existing mechanisms and developing them further.

Since the late 1980s and the early 1990s, the topic of economic integration and cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean has taken on renewed relevance as a result of the fast growth of intraregional trade and the launching of multiple initiatives for the conclusion of free trade agreements at both the regional and the hemispheric levels. This process is reflected in the emergence of new subregional integration arrangements and in the reactivation of other, older arrangements, with the explicit aim of arriving, in the near future, at the creation of free trade areas, customs unions and, in the longer term, common markets.

These processes are also taking place in a context of reorientation of the region's economies towards improving their competitiveness in world markets; the emerging integration models in Latin America and the Caribbean support this outward-looking orientation of the regional economy.

Against this backdrop, the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 comprises activities in three closely interrelated subject areas of particular interest to the region.

The purpose of the activities in the first subject area is to analyse recent developments in economic integration processes, through fulfilment of the agreements reached and the growth of economic flows which reveal the nature and extent of the progress made; the most up-to-date, direct information will be used in these analyses. In addition, the prospects and problems of the different integration schemes and subgroups will be studied, and proposals will be formulated as to the direction they should take in the future.

Activities in the second subject area will focus on analysing the reciprocal impact of the commitments made under integration agreements and the general content and instruments of the economic and social policy implemented by the countries of the region; the aim will be to evaluate the degree of compatibility between the two processes and to suggest action to facilitate their necessary convergence.

The third subject area is devoted mainly to cooperation and advisory services in specific areas of economic integration and cooperation, with emphasis on the institutional aspects of the integration processes under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are relevant both to the performance and evolution of the different arrangements currently in force and to their projection towards more ambitious forms of integration among all the countries of the region.

Lastly, the programme of work includes technical cooperation activities benefiting countries of the region and subregional integration bodies, some of which have already concluded cooperation agreements, in fields related to the different subject areas under consideration. At the same time, efforts will be made to establish institutional ties with the new centres of integration and cooperation that are emerging in the region.

1. Activities

Subject area 14.1: Analysis, monitoring and evaluation of regional integration and cooperation processes

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) Report on recent developments in the integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ii) A study on the prospects and problems of the various integration schemes and subgroups, with proposals for their future direction.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

i) Provision of technical cooperation services to the secretariats of subregional integration bodies.

ii) Provision of technical cooperation services to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that request them, particularly the relatively less developed ones, in the area of regional integration.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 14.2: Evaluation of integration agreements in the context of economic and social policies

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts on the problems inherent in the establishment of a common external tariff and other related agreements.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A study on the social aspects of the integration process.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to the secretariats of subregional integration bodies and to countries that request them, in the area of the evaluation of integration policies.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 14.3: Cooperation and advisory services in specific areas of economic integration and cooperation

a) Non-recurrent publications

A document on the institutional aspects of the various integration processes taking place in the region.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to the secretariats of subregional integration bodies and to countries that request them, in specific areas of economic integration and cooperation.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Activities under this subprogramme will be carried out mainly through the exchange of information and the holding of technical consultations with the subregional headquarters and the offices of ECLAC in various countries, as well as with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Close contact will also be maintained with the secretariats of some integration bodies, including the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the Central American Common Market (CACM), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Andean Group and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). The subprogramme will also involve collaboration with some cooperation bodies, such as the Association of Latin American Industrialists (AILA), the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute (ILAFA) and the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE).

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be government authorities and officials of the countries of the region, particularly those connected with regional integration and cooperation.

Other users of these outputs will include regional and subregional integration and cooperation bodies, academic institutions, research centres and various private-sector organizations, such as producers' associations, chambers of commerce and professional and technical bodies related to the topics dealt with in the subprogramme.

Users will be reached through the distribution of documents and publications, technical cooperation, periodic consultations and participation in intergovernmental meetings and meetings of experts.

JOINT ECLAC/UNCTAD UNIT ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Presentation

The Joint ECLAC/UNCTAD Unit on Transnational Corporations is the coordination centre for United Nations activities in this field in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its primary responsibility is to study and analyse the economic, social and institutional effects of the operations of transnational corporations in the region, in order to provide Governments with reference material that will enable them to adopt policies and measures to take full advantage of the contribution of foreign investment to their countries' development.

The Unit's work programme must reflect both the guidelines elaborated by the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the mandates of the States members of ECLAC. These guidelines and mandates originate in the sessions of both commissions.

As the world economy's globalization process gathers momentum, the leading role played by transnational corporations, basically as a result of their mastery of modern technology, is becoming increasingly evident. The economic and institutional reforms which most countries in the region have introduced have resulted, in the current decade, in the recovery of flows of foreign direct investment, which had declined during the 1980s. However, clear trends towards the sectoral specialization of such flows and their concentration in a few countries have also emerged.

The countries of the region have significantly reoriented their development strategy to emphasize better integration into the international economy and a consequent increase in the competitiveness of domestic and foreign firms, based on technical progress. As a result, production patterns are being changed and modernized at the national level, and this involves new investments and the restructuring of the industrial system inherited from the past. Transnational corporations undoubtedly can play a complementary and key role in those processes, since they control large segments of international trade, research and development and the consequent transfer of technology, as well as capital formation in the world economy.

Comparative studies conducted under the work programmes of previous bienniums show that, in general, capital and foreign technology have not played as dynamic a role in Latin America as they have in the developing countries of Asia. In the latter, and particularly in the newly industrializing economies, capital and foreign technology were vital factors in their growing incorporation into the new international industrial order, based on the dynamism of their manufactures exports which stemmed from to their level of technological sophistication.

Regional comparisons also highlight differences both in development strategies and policies and in the forms taken by foreign investment and the ensuring participation of transnational corporations in the recipient economies' development. These differences, together with a series of structural and macroeconomic factors, condition the capacity of foreign investment and transnational corporations to promote a virtuous circle in which a technological learning process paves the way for a subsequent phase of innovation in the countries of the region.

In order to deepen the analysis of the above-mentioned processes and contribute to the efforts of the countries of the region to design strategies and policies to take advantage of foreign investment flows and the participation of transnational corporations, the work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium consists of six closely interrelated subject areas.

The activities scheduled in the first four subject areas will consist of analysing relevant aspects of the potential contribution of transnational corporations to the development of local economies, such as their role in industrial restructuring, their impact on the foreign trade of the countries of the region, their participation in the transfer of technology and their consequent impact on the modernization of production processes, and their relation to regional and subregional economic integration. In view of the growing importance of this last area in recent years, special attention will be given to the internationalization of Latin American firms within and outside the region.

A special chapter of the work programme concerns the analysis of relevant policies to increase and improve the share of foreign investment and transnational corporations in Latin American and Caribbean development, so as to intensify the participation of the countries of the region in the new international industrial order. To support the research and technical cooperation activities, updated information will continue to be gathered on foreign investment in its various forms and on the activities of transnational corporations in the countries of the region. Studies on these topics comprise the two remaining subject areas.

Operational activities will also be carried out, including technical cooperation missions to countries requesting them, as well as meetings and round tables, which will help to disseminate the work of the Unit and to give the countries of the region a better understanding of transnational corporations.

1. Activities

Subject area 1: Transnational corporations and changing and modernizing of production patterns

a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to analyse the conclusions of the studies on the role of transnational corporations in industrial restructuring.

b) Non-recurrent publications

A document on transnational corporations and industrial restructuring.

c) Intermediate activities

Two case studies on the role of transnational corporations in industrial restructuring, and updating of two previous studies on the same subject.

Subject area 2: Transnational corporations and the foreign trade of the countries of the region

Non-recurrent publications

A case study on transnational corporations and their impact on foreign trade in selected sectors and countries.

Subject area 3: Transnational corporations and transfer of technology

Non-recurrent publications

Two case studies on transnational corporations and their impact on technological modernization.

Subject area 4: Transnational corporations and economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean

Non-recurrent publications

a) Report on the contribution of transnational corporations to economic integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Report on the internationalization of Latin American firms within and outside the region.

Subject area 5: Policy alternatives for maximizing the contribution of transnational corporations to development

a) Non-recurrent publications

A study on the new conditioning factors and policy criteria for maximizing the contribution of transnational corporations to the development of the recipient economies.

b) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to the countries, at their request, in the area of policies to maximize the contribution of transnational corporations to development.

c) Intermediate activities

Updating of the analysis of economic and institutional reforms and relevant policies in the countries of the region.

The execution of operation activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 6: Information system on foreign investment

a) Non-recurrent publications

i) Two statistical yearbooks on foreign investment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ii) Four publications containing summaries of the research under way and selected articles on transnational corporations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Technical material

Updating of the database on the legal framework for, and statistical information on, foreign investment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

c) Operational activities

Advisory services

Provision of tec' nical cooperation services to the countries, at their request, in the area of national information systems on foreign investment.

d) Intermediate activities

Preparation of annual reports on foreign investment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The implementation of all the activities in this area is contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

Mutual cooperation will continue with various international organizations, such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and other United Nations bodies. In addition, official consultations on regional experiences in this field will be held regularly with various government and non-governmental organizations, in an attempt to form a network of institutions related to this topic in the region and to promote cooperation among them.

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users will be public and private entities responsible for taking decisions on matters related to foreign investment and transnational corporations. The publications envisaged will also be made available to regional or subregional development, integration or policy coordination bodies, academic and research centres and business, labour, and technical and professional associations interested in this field.

Users will be reached through the distribution of documents and participation in regional, subregional or national seminars and round tables.

The documents produced are expected to serve as reference elements for the Governments of member States for formulating and implementing policies aimed at maximizing the contribution of transnational corporations to the development of the countries of the region.

Annex

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

1. Meetings

1.1 Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

Organization of meetings of representatives of governmental institutions of the member countries to consider a specific topic relating to the functions performed by these institutions. In most cases, ECLAC will prepare a report or substantive document on the topic in question.

1.2 Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meetings of experts from outside the United Nations system, to provide advisory assistance to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC on a specific topic. The Commission normally prepares a report or substantive document on the topic to serve as a basis for the debates at these meetings.

2. Documents and publications

2.1 Recurrent publications

Studies and/or bulletins published by ECLAC with a periodicity previously established in the secretariat's programme of publications, such as the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Demographic Bulletin.

2.2 Non-recurrent publications

Studies published by ECLAC, in accordance with its programme of publications, which do not appear regularly.

2.3 Technical material

Information contained in databases, computer software, inter alia, which does not fit into the category of final outputs.

3. Information materials and services

Includes all outputs whose purpose is to disseminate the activities of ECLAC, such as pamphlets, informative notes and press releases, exhibitions and other visual materials, filmed and videotaped documentaries, materials for radio broadcasts, guided tours and special events, among others.

4. Operational activities

4.1 Advisory services

Technical advisory assistance to member countries at their request.

4.2 Group training

Specialized training seminars and courses organized and offered by ECLAC for the benefit of member countries.

5. Intermediate activities

All ongoing activities whose results could be used in the preparation of final outputs.